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## Colombian hijacking ends

SAN JOSE (R) — A plane hijacker who doused a fellow passenger with petrol Tuesday and threatened to set it alight was arrested when the Colombian airliner landed at the international airport here, a Security Ministry spokesman said. "A hijacker has been captured and he was immediately handed over to the office of intelligence and security," the ministry spokesman told Reuters. The Ace airline Boeing 727 was commandeered at 1750 at 1750 GMT after taking off from San Andres island, Colombia, en route to the city of Medellin, the Civil Aeronautics Department of Colombia said. Officials in Colombia said the plane's pilot reported the hijacker had a container that apparently was filled with gasoline. The pilot was quoted as saying the man threatened to spill the liquid over a passenger and set it alight. "The hijacker during the flight told the pilot, Jaime Perez, he would burn a passenger alive if he did not divert the flight to Costa Rica," said air traffic controller Carlos Paniagua. The hijacker turned himself over to authorities after the plane landed at an airport north of the Costa Rican capital an hour later, according to control tower officials. A Costa Rican anti-terrorist squad and Red Cross personnel entered the plane, the control tower officials said.

## Iraqi elections postponed

BAGHDAD (AP) — The government Tuesday decided to postpone elections for a new National Assembly until April 1, Baghdad radio said. The radio said the ruling Revolutionary Command Council and the leadership of the Baath Party decided to put off elections set for March 3 in order to "take all necessary steps to enlarge the base of democracy" in Iraq. It said government leaders met with the council Tuesday to discuss ideas put forward for a new constitution. President Saddam Hussein, who chaired the meeting, last year pledged that Iraq would introduce a new constitution that would guarantee basic human rights. The current constitution was adopted in 1969, one year after the Baath Party returned to power. Hussein said new political parties would be allowed to operate alongside the National Progressive and Patriotic Front, currently the only legal political grouping. The front is led by the ruling Baath Party and also contains Kurdish parties. Elections to the 255-seat National Assembly founded in 1980 were set for last Aug. 3, but were delayed after Iran accepted a ceasefire July 18 in the Gulf war. Last week Information Minister Latif Nassif Jassas said in an interview with the AP that the elections might be postponed.

## Arab panel optimistic of progress on Lebanon

TUNIS (Agencies) — A special Arab League committee trying to mediate between competing Lebanese governments continued its work Tuesday, with its chairman saying he is optimistic about making progress.

Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Jabar Al Sabah of Kuwait, heading the committee, said the group would try to draw up a "synthesis" of the views of the Lebanese leaders it met with separately Monday.

When the last of the sessions ended near midnight, Sabah told reporters it would not be easy to solve Lebanon's longstanding problems, but he was "optimistic as to the chances of clearing the ground to make way for a platform in view of a settlement of the crisis in Lebanon."

The committee, made up of six foreign ministers and Arab League Secretary General Chadi Kibbi, met first with Hussein Husseini, speaker of the Lebanese parliament, then with Michel Aoun, who heads an interim military cabinet appointed by outgoing President Amin Gemayel just before his term expired in September, and finally with Prime Minister Salim Hoss. The meetings resumed Tuesday.

Sheikh Sabah later explained the document in turn to each of the three Lebanese politicians.

"I hope it will prove acceptable," the Kuwaiti foreign minister told reporters. The six ministers were to meet the Lebanese separately again Tuesday evening, he added.

Aoun told a news conference

Tuesday the root of the problem was foreign occupation and the task of the Arab League should be to tackle this dimension.

Hoss's spokesman repeated the view that the priority was to find a presidential candidate with a constitutional reform programme and then reunite the divided army.

The Arab ministers, from Kuwait, Sudan, Jordan, Algeria, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, met without the Lebanese Tuesday and drew up a document detailing the points on which the Lebanese agree.

These included calling presidential elections with guarantees of freedom and security, constitutional reform and the withdrawal of foreign forces, an Arab League official said.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives the visiting Turkish Army Chief of Staff Necdi Torumtay at Al Nadwa Palace (Petra photo)

## King, Turkish army chief review military cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday held talks with Turkey's army chief of staff, General Necdi Torumtay, on Jordanian-Turkish cooperation in military affairs.

The visiting general conveyed to the King greetings from Turkish President Kenan Evren at the meeting, held at Al Nadwa Palace.

King Hussein conferred on Torumtay the Jordanian Al Kawkab Medal of the First Order while the guest presented to the King the Shield of the Turkish Armed Forces.

The meeting was in the presence of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and his assistants as well as the commander of the Jordanian Royal Air Force and Turkish Ambassador to Jordan Samih Belen.

The visiting general and his delegation and Jordanian officials were later guests at a lunch hosted by King Hussein.



HM King Hussein and Hafez Al Assad

## King, Assad confer

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein had a telephone conversation Tuesday with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad. The two leaders exchanged views on recent Arab developments and issues of common interest as well as Jordanian-Syrian relations.

## Riyadh said mediating between Syria and PLO

By Rana Sabbagh  
Reuters

AMMAN — Saudi Arabia, mediating between Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), has won agreement for a PLO delegation to visit Damascus soon, Arab diplomats and Palestinian sources said Tuesday.

"President Hafez Al Assad has told the Saudis he is ready for talks with the PLO and to meet Yasser Arafat if the talks go well," an Arab diplomat told Reuters.

Palestine National Council (PNC) Speaker Sheikh Abdul

Hamid Al Sayeh told the Jordan Times this week that a PLO team would go to Damascus soon to discuss a possible Arafat visit.

Arafat last met the Syrian leader in April when he went to Damascus to attend the funeral of assassinated PLO military chief Khalil Al Wazir.

The Arab diplomat said Saudi Arabia was using its good offices but planned to take no direct part in Syrian-PLO talks.

A source in the Amman-based PNC said Saudi Arabia's King Fahd had launched his latest mediation effort when Assad visited Riyadh in December.

## Velayati welcomes Iraqi move

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran said Tuesday Iraq's agreement to form a joint military commission to strengthen their ceasefire was a positive step.

The Iranian news agency IRNA quoted Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati as saying Baghdad's decision, announced by President Saddam Hussein in talks with U.N. mediator Jan Eliasson Sunday, was a "positive step in the trend of peace talks."

But Velayati said Iraq should withdraw its forces from Iranian territory before stalled peace talks could resume.

IRNA quoted Velayati as saying: "Both the Iranian and Iraqi nations can and should establish friendly relations because of their joint religious, historical, cultural, communal and traditional ties, after a lasting peace is established."

Eliasson, Sweden's U.N. ambassador and the envoy of U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, returned to New York Monday.

U.N.-sponsored peace talks started in Geneva Aug. 25 but broke down immediately over the issue of troop withdrawals to pre-war boundaries.

Two further rounds of talks failed to make progress and no date was set for them to resume.

Diplomats in Baghdad described the committee agreement as a breakthrough in U.N. efforts to revive the stalled peace talks.

They said that formation of the joint military group to work with the U.N. military observer group monitoring the ceasefire, could signal better prospects of mutual troop withdrawals.

The last session of face-to-face negotiations were held on Nov. 11 in Geneva, with the two sides divided on whether a troop pullback or dredging of the Shatt Al Arab border river should come first.

Iraq's INA news agency said Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz told Eliasson Iran's refusal to agree to the clearing of the waterway, which is Iraq's main outlet to the Gulf, was a sign of its ill-intentions.

## Palestinians strike; 15 wounded in gunfire

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Seventeen Palestinians were reported shot and wounded in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday as Israeli soldiers clashed with protesters throwing stones and raising Palestinian flags. A general strike shut down the occupied territories.

Tuesday's strike, which shut businesses and halted transport, was called by the leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

Clashes erupted throughout the occupied territories between troops and Palestinian protesters and 17 Palestinians were shot and wounded, doctors said.

The worst confrontation was in the Gaza Strip's Jabalya refugee camp where residents strung up 10 Palestinian flags from electricity poles, reports said. Nine Palestinian boys were shot and wounded, including a 13-year-old shot in the right side, doctors said.

A 75-year-old woman was shot in the face during a clash with soldiers in a village near the West Bank town of Jenin, said doctors at Al Irtihad hospital in Nabulus.

Seven other Palestinians were wounded in clashes in Gaza City and the Nuseirat refugee camp as well as the West Bank's Balata and Jenin refugee camps, doctors said. The wounded included a 16-year-old boy shot in the head.

U.N. relief workers and refugee camp residents said Kemal Abu Raya, 23, was arrested and beaten by troops who stopped an ambulance taking him to hospital to treat a bullet wound in the

knee.

Throughout the occupied territories Palestinians closed their shops and stopped public transport. Many did not go to their jobs in Israel, heeding a call by underground leaders of the uprising to protest against Israeli tax collection.

Residents of Beit Sahour village in the West Bank said soldiers, as part of new measures to crush the uprising, had begun arresting and fining them if there were nationalist slogans on walls outside their houses.

They said two of those who will be fined or jailed, Michael Jarateh and Jerias Al Bad, had not been allowed to erase the slogans as the law requires. The two maintained they had not written the slogans.

Meanwhile, hotel owners in Arab Jerusalem requested an urgent meeting with the occupation authorities to protest against changes in employment laws for Palestinians.

New laws require Palestinians from the West Bank to get work permits and salaries through a state employment office, making it difficult for hotels to choose their own workers.

Marwan Al Amad, president of the Arab Hotel Association, told Reuters:

"We want West Bank employees to be treated just like Jerusalem employees, we don't want any discrimination. Many are cousins... the law is harmful to employees, to hotel institutions and above all it is harmful to tourism of the Holy City."

## Van den Broek urges Israel-PLO peace effort

THE HAGUE (R) — Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek urged a forum of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) representatives and Israeli meeting in the Hague Tuesday to work together for peace.

The minister also warmly welcomed Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat, after telling the audience recent developments had enhanced the chances of a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Referring to improved superpower ties and Arafat's acceptance in December of the right of Israel to exist, Van den Broek said: "There may be signs of the beginnings of a peace process worthy of its name."

But he warned the only chance

for peace was if Israelis and Palestinians talked together.

"It is this hope that dialogue may get a chance which inspired me to accept an invitation to address you briefly," he said at the start of the three-day forum on Middle East peace.

"The role which Europe and others can play is to help remove the seemingly unsurmountable fear and mistrust which now separates Israel and the Palestinians," he told the gathering of about 200 Israelis, Palestinians and Europeans.

The forum, sponsored by the private Dutch Research Institute for Oppressed People, has provided Van den Broek with an opportunity to hold private talks with PLO representatives.

Sadeq Al Mahdi

Friday and said later it would step up an offensive to seize more army-held towns.

State Radio Omdurman said the Supreme Council, Sudan's collective presidency, called on the people to rally behind the armed forces, saying Al Nasir must be recaptured.

Mahdi first received a parliamentary mandate to hold the conference last month, when the 301-seat house rejected a peace pact signed by the SPLA and one political party in November.

The SPLA has insisted that it will not attend the proposed conference unless the government first approves its pact with the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP).

The rebels, fighting since 1983 for autonomy for the mainly animist or Christian south, have since escalated their attacks while the DUP has quit Mahdi's coalition.

The SPLA captured the southern garrison town of Al Nasir last

## Rifai, Giacomelli discuss UNRWA services

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Zaid Rifai discussed the situation in Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan with the head of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Tuesday.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Rifai and UNRWA Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli reviewed efforts to improve health and education services for Palestinian refugees in the Kingdom.

The meeting was attended by Palestinian Affairs Department



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai Tuesday meets with United Nations Relief and Works Agency Commissioner-General Giorgio Giacomelli (Petra photo)

director Ahmad Qatanani and a delegation accompanying Giacomelli.

Qatanani also met separately with Giacomelli, and reviewed UNRWA services to Palestinian refugees and scopes of cooperation between the agency and the

Jordanian government for providing better services.

Giacomelli, who arrived here Sunday, was also expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan during his visit, an UNRWA source quoted by Reuters said.

## Shamir outlines plan, rules out Palestinian state

PARIS (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir outlined a two-stage peace plan for the occupied territories in an interview published Tuesday, holding out the possibility of eventual "territorial concessions" by Israel.

In the interview with the French daily Le Monde Shamir appeared to be echoing suggestions made by Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin which he had rejected in the past.

"I have a two-phase solution in mind for the Palestinians who live here. The first phase would offer a very wide and liberal autonomy, for a limited period," said Shamir.

"Then there would be negotiations — without preliminary conditions — on a permanent status for the territory," he said, adding that democratic elections for "legitimate" Palestinian representatives would then follow.

Rabin's plan, which calls for elections in the occupied territories after a period of calm, have been rejected by many Palestinians and hardline Israeli leaders.

Asked whether Israel was still determined not to withdraw from any territory, Shamir said: "Of course, there will be no retreat now, but if we go to the negotiating table, we will go without preconditions."

Although Shamir appeared to be more conciliatory than in the past, he reiterated his opposition to an international peace conference on the conflict and ruled out the setting up of a Palestinian state.

"They won't achieve (a Palestinian state) by either negotiation or by force. It is unimaginable. It will never exist," he said.

Leading Palestinian nationalist Faisal Al Hussein said Tuesday elections could only take place in the occupied territories after Israel withdrew.

Hussein, freed this week after spending 18 of the last 21 months

in jail without trial, said he did not retract an earlier statement supporting elections under certain conditions.

"When I say free and democratic, I mean it, and I am not throwing words in the air. Elections could not take place under the guns of the occupation," he told Reuters.

A Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) spokesman and local Palestinian leaders Sunday rejected Hussein's conditions for elections — international supervision and PLO approval.

Hussein said he was not responding to Palestinian criticism but to Rabin's remark that elections for a local leadership would enable Israel to bypass the PLO.

"They are trying to use this idea of elections to make a split between Palestinians inside and outside. When Rabin said there are two peoples, outside and inside, he killed the issue of elections," he said.

## Jury selection starts for North

WASHINGTON (AP) — The trial of fired White House aide Oliver North opened Tuesday with efforts to select a jury that has not been exposed substantially to the extensive publicity surrounding the Iran-contra affair.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell issued a questionnaire to 34 prospective jurors asking them: "Have you read or seen or heard anything about this case before coming to this court?"

North, dressed in a dark suit, sat at the defence table as Gesell addressed the prospective jurors. Then they filed out of the courtroom to fill out the questionnaires.

North is accused of lying to Congress about his role in funneling money to the Nicaraguan contra rebels when Congress had banned U.S. aid to them. He is accused of lying to the attorney general about his role in giving

the contra millions of dollars in profits from secret arms sales to Iran. The ensuing scandal rocked then-President Ronald Reagan's administration, shocked Americans and prompted a televised congressional investigation.

North's trial on charges of lying to Congress, shredding evidence and conspiring to commit tax fraud "arises following a period of fairly intense publicity on television, newspapers, magazines" which will continue, Gesell told jurors.

The questionnaire also asks whether the prospective juror knows or has any connection with any one of 195 people whose names have come up in the Iran-contra case, including Reagan and President George Bush.

Gesell wants to find 50 people out of a pool of 300 who have not been exposed to the congressional testimony of North or other

witnesses granted limited immunity from prosecution in exchange for telling their stories to Congress.

Indicted more than 10 months ago, the retired Marine lieutenant colonel and decorated Vietnam veteran is the first figure in the scandal to come to trial.

He could face up to 60 years in prison and \$3 million in fines if convicted of all 12 crimes with which he is charged.

North also is accused of shredding National Security Council records and participating in a tax fraud conspiracy in which wealthy donors would get tax breaks for contributions to the contra.

Former National Security Adviser John Poindexter and arms suppliers Richard Secord and Albert Hakim also face criminal charges in the case, but will be tried separately later.

## LAST-MINUTE NEWS

### British delegation ends visit

AMMAN (Petra) — A British parliamentary delegation Tuesday concluded a two-day official visit to Jordan and left for the occupied West Bank. In a departure statement, the head of the delegation stressed the need for holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, saying that it was the only way for finding a durable, just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict. Richard Page also said the British government remained positive towards the Palestine question and the need for establishing peace in the region. He also said that the Palestinians had the right to live in peace, similar to other world nations. The delegation's visit to the occupied territories, he said, aimed at obtaining first-hand information on the situation there and conveying the image to British officials to enable them to formulate a comprehensive perception of the necessary political action to ensure convening an international peace conference.

### 3 EEC ministers to visit Jordan, Egypt, Syria

MADRID (R) — The foreign ministers of Spain, France and Greece, spearheading a European Economic Community (EEC) Middle East peace initiative, will visit Jordan, Egypt and Syria next month, Spanish diplomatic sources said Monday. The ministers had talks with Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat in Madrid last week.

### Iraq and Sudan agree to boost ties

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq and Sudan have agreed to boost ties and continue high-level consultations, Baghdad Radio reported. The radio said the agreement was reached during a four-day visit to Baghdad by Sudanese President Ahmad Ali Al Mirghani that ended Tuesday. Mirghani held talks with President Saddam Hussein and senior Iraqi officials, including Izzat Ibrahim and Deputy Prime Minister Taha Yassin Ramadan.

### Shevardnadze due in Peking

PEKING (AP) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze arrived Wednesday to put the final touches on preparations for the first Sino-Soviet summit since the two communist giants split in bitter rivalry 30 years ago. The visit follows a year of rapid progress in bilateral relations expected to culminate this spring when Mikhail Gorbachev becomes the first Soviet leader to travel to China since 1959.

### 10 women hanged in Iran

NICOSIA (R) — Ten women have been hanged in western Iran on charges of adultery and corruption, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Tuesday. Five women who confessed to "setting up dens of corruption and adultery" were hanged in Mahabad Tuesday and five women and a man were executed on similar charges in Malayer Monday, said the agency.

### Committee okays 2 Bush nominations

WASHINGTON (R) — The Senate Commerce Committee Tuesday approved Bush's nominations of Robert Mosbacher as commerce secretary and Samuel Skinner as transportation secretary. Both nominations were approved by voice vote without objection and sent to the full Senate for confirmation. The full Senate last week approved the nominations of Secretary of State James Baker, Labour Secretary Elizabeth Dole and Office of Management and Budget Director Richard Darman.

### Ex-Mossad chief investigated in sabotage

VENICE (R) — A former Israeli secret services chief is formally under investigation for complicity in the sabotage of an Italian military plane which crashed in 1973, the magistrate in charge of the case said Tuesday. Investigating magistrate Carlo Mastelloni said General Zvi Zamir, head of Mossad between 1969 and 1974, was suspected with other Israeli agents of involvement in the sabotage of a Dakota aircraft which crashed near Venice, killing its four crew.



# Last Soviet soldier could be out of Kabul within a week

ISLAMABAD (R) — The last Soviet combat troops may leave Kabul within a week, ahead of schedule, if the weather permits, Western diplomatic sources said Tuesday.

The diplomats, speaking in Islamabad, quoted Soviet officials as saying in the Afghan capital that the last Soviet soldiers would head home from Kabul between Feb. 2 and 6.

The diplomatic sources said a large-scale airlift from Kabul of Soviet troops, who must leave Afghanistan by Feb. 15 under Geneva accords brokered by the United Nations last April, had been delayed by snow that had closed the city's airport.

The airlift had been set Jan. 28 and last for five days, the sources said. They said many of the Soviet troops, now handing over defensive positions around Kabul to Afghan soldiers, would go back home by land with their heavy equipment after massive bombardments opened the road north to the Soviet border.

The Soviet sources were quoted as saying the last Soviet combat troops to be withdrawn would be those guarding Kabul airport.

The sources said Afghan and Soviet forces over the past week had re-opened the Salang Highway, which runs north to the Soviet

border from Kabul, with waves of artillery barrages backed by bombing from the air. Scud missiles and ground attacks.

They said rebel Mujahideen fighting the Kabul government estimated as many as 600 people, mostly civilians, were killed in the bombardments Jan. 23 and perhaps twice that number wounded.

## Battle for Salang

The sources said the bombing around the Salang Tunnel, the most critical part of a road along which Soviet supplies to Kabul must pass, extended as far 50 kilometres from the highway.

Entire villages were destroyed, including some in the Panjsher Valley northwest of Kabul that is the base of guerrilla commander Ahmad Shah Masood, whose men have frequently closed the Salang Highway.

At least 14 ground-to-ground Scud missiles supplied by Moscow had been fired at the Panjsher Valley, where the bombardment left many people homeless in one of the coldest winters Afghanistan has seen for years,

the sources said.

They interpreted the bombardments as intended to intimidate Masood into entering an agreement with the Afghan government to cease fighting.

The official Afghan news agency, Bakhtar, reported Tuesday that President Najibullah had written to Masood offering talks but had been ignored.

Mujahideen are trying to lay siege to the major towns held by the government, principally, Kabul, Kandahar in the south, and Jalalabad, which lies on the road from the Afghan capital to the Pakistan border.

Burhanuddin Rabbani, head of one of seven Mujahideen groups based in the Pakistan city of Peshawar, was quoted Tuesday as saying the guerrillas did not intend to storm the cities. They wanted to avoid a civilian bloodbath, he said.

He told the Kuwaiti daily Al Anbaa the Mujahideen had specifically ruled out seizing the cities by force.

The diplomatic sources in Islamabad said the guerrilla siege of Kandahar had not prevented a major Soviet supply operation to the city, which was still continuing Monday with a Soviet contingent on the ground coordinating it.

Masood's men had laid siege to

the road, alleging that Moscow was using it to send arms and ammunition to Kabul, Mujahideen officials said in Islamabad.

## Food situation

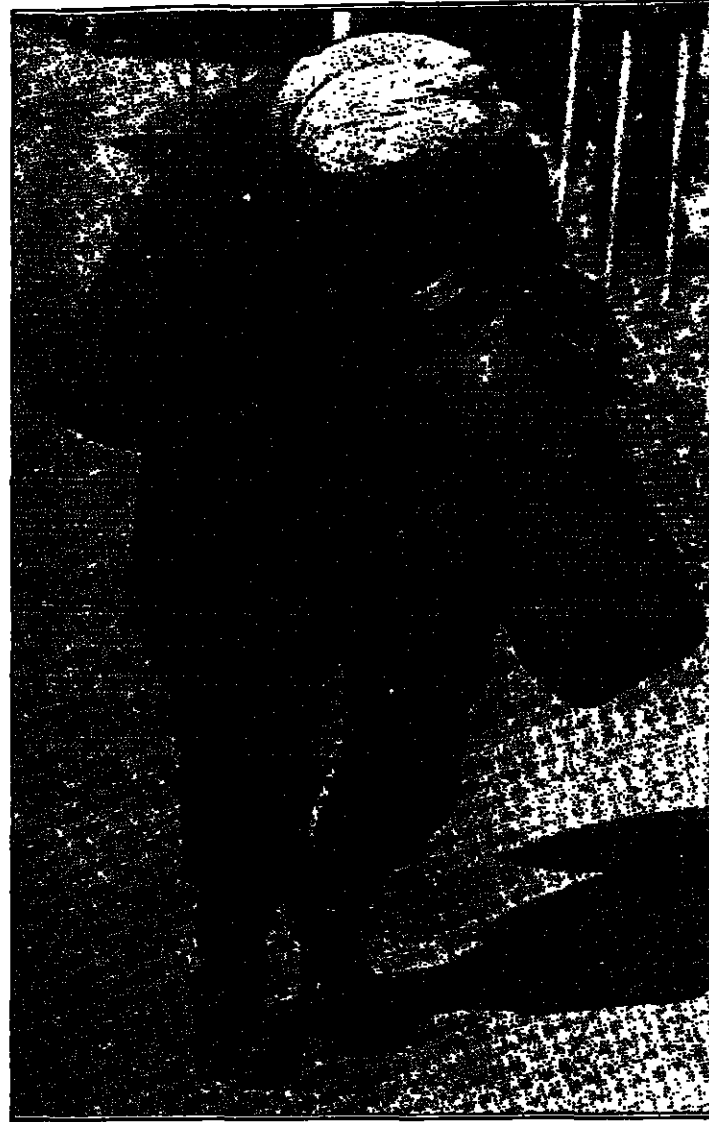
The bombardments had prompted a fresh influx of refugees into Pakistan, where three million Afghans are living. The sources said precise numbers of new arrivals was not available.

The blockade of the Salang Highway caused severe food shortages in the Afghan capital, eased when the road opened to long food convoys and Soviet transport planes flew in supplies.

Bakhtar quoted Kabul Mayor Abdul Hakim as saying the city now had stocks of 75,000 tonnes of wheat flour, used for making the unleavened bread that is the Afghan staple.

Hakim said plenty more was on the way. He said Moscow was sending 160,000 tonnes, Mongolia 10,000 tonnes, and that 33,000 tonnes would arrive from stockpiles in the northern city of Mazar-I-Sharif.

The diplomatic sources also reported hunger in south and west Afghanistan, where Soviet bombing since last October had prevented the plantings of crops. People were leaving towns in search of food, they said.



An old Afghan struggles painfully through the streets of Kabul in search of food and fuel, which are increasingly in short supply.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### UNIFIL to stay another six months

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Security Council agreed unanimously Monday to retain the U.N. force in Lebanon known as UNIFIL for a further six months. The decision was taken during one of the council's briefest meetings, lasting no more than a few minutes and devoid of speeches. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar recommended the extension of the mandate for the force of 5,800 troops. He said the mandate about to end coincided with a difficult period for the troops, who were prevented from carrying out tasks assigned to them 10 years ago. Various armed groups continued to harass them and three soldiers lost their lives in accidents while 17 others were injured, Perez de Cuellar said. He said UNIFIL was deep in the red, with a deficit of \$304 million resulting from the failure of member states to pay their dues. Monthly costs for the six-month period beginning on Feb. 1 would be \$11.9 million, he said.

### Turkish election candidate shot dead

ANKARA (R) — A member of Turkey's ruling Motherland Party was shot dead by gunmen in a southeastern Turkish town, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said Monday. Gunmen firing automatic weapons killed Sabri Karahan and wounded four other people as they came out of the local party building in Siverek in the southeastern province of Sanliurfa Sunday night, the agency said. Karahan was running for Siverek mayor in the nationwide local elections scheduled for March 26. Sanliurfa Governor Alpaslan Karacan told Anatolian that several people had been arrested.

### Iranian Jews to pray for Khomeini's life

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian Jews will pray for a long life for Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini on the anniversary of the revolution next month, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Monday. "We the Jews of Iran will attend ceremonies at synagogues and raise our hands in prayer towards the exalted God for the long life of the imam of the nation (Khomeini) and the prominence of our dear homeland," it quoted Manoochehr Nikrooz, the Jewish representative in parliament, as saying in a statement. Tens of thousands of Jews have left Iran since the 1979 revolution which counted Israel among its top enemies. The World Union of Jewish Students estimates 30,000 Jews remain behind.

### Sharansky may be Israeli U.N. delegate

TEL AVIV (R) — Former Soviet dissident Natan (Formerly Anatoly) Sharansky, released by Moscow in a spy swap in 1986, has been nominated Israeli ambassador to the United Nations, Israeli Radio said Tuesday. Ministry officials could not confirm the report but Foreign Minister Moshe Arens met the activist, an Israeli citizen for the past three years, Monday. Sharansky, who changed his Russian name Anatoly Shebaransky to the Hebrew Natan Sharansky, in an outspoken critic of the Soviet Union. Some political observers said Sharansky's nomination, if confirmed, would ruffle feathers in Moscow which uses the United Nations as a key point of contact with Israel.

### Iran hangs 5 Afghans in public

NICOSIA (R) — Iran hanged five Afghans in public in the north-eastern town of Mashhad after finding them guilty of armed robbery, rape and terrorising people, the Iranian news agency IRNA said Tuesday. The agency, monitored in Cyprus, said the five had formed a smuggling gang and had committed 13 armed robberies. They were hanged Monday in the town, near the border with Afghanistan, after being tried by an Islamic revolutionary court.

### Hungary sees full ties with Israel

VIENNA (AP) — Hungarian Premier Miklos Nemeth, in an interview broadcast Monday, predicted that full diplomatic ties between Hungary and Israel would be re-established in the first half of this year. Nemeth made the comment in an interview with Austrian television. Hungary, like all Warsaw Pact countries except Romania, severed diplomatic relations with Israel in the wake of the 1967 war. Recently, however, bilateral relations have improved and last year each country created interest sections in each other's land. Following an unofficial visit to Budapest last September, Israeli Premier Yitzhak Shamir said the two countries had agreed to gradually restore diplomatic ties. In an initial response, an Israeli foreign ministry official speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity said Nemeth's statement Monday was public confirmation of information Israeli had heard from Hungarian ministers and government officials.

### Baghdad and Sanaa twinned

NICOSIA (AP) — Baghdad and Sanaa, the capitals of Iraq and North Yemen, were twinned during a ceremony in Baghdad Monday, the Iraqi News Agency reported. The twinning document was signed by the mayors of the two cities, Khalid Abdul Monem Rashid of Baghdad, and Hussein Mohammad Al Mansouri of Sanaa, said the agency.

### U.S. officials to assess Sudanese needs

NAIROBI (AP) — Two officials from private U.S. relief organisations plan to visit rebel-held areas in southern Sudan this week to assess relief needs, a Sudanese relief official said Monday. Richard Mula, secretary general of the Sudan Relief and Rehabilitation Association, told the AP the officials plan to visit rebel-held southern towns of Kapoeta, Ikoto, Pachala and Pibor. Mula and a spokesman at the U.S. embassy in Nairobi declined to identify the officials or their organisations. However, both said relief requirements would be provided by the U.S. Agency for International Development (AID). "They want to go and make initial assessment of the needs of the people," Mula said. "They plan to leave Wednesday and are waiting clearance from the SPLA." The Sudan People's Liberation Army is the military wing of Sudan People's Liberation Movement.

## Denktash assails Vassiliou proposals

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Cypriot President George Vassiliou has presented written proposals for the first time at talks on reunifying the island but Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash dismissed them as vague.

"Some (Greek) proposals are so obscure that it is not certain even if they want a federation," Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency quoted Denktash as saying.

"They (Greek Cypriots) have taken as a basis unilateral U.N. decisions which we do not accept. There are threats and dangers because they want the United Nations to remain after the federal government is established," the news agency quoted him as saying.

Greek-Cypriot sources said the proposals, the first submitted in writing by Vassiliou, conformed with previous agreements for a

bi-communal federation and with U.N. resolutions.

They said the proposals were flexible, and Denktash told reporters in north Cyprus later that although he was disappointed, this was only his first impression.

The meeting Monday was the latest in a series which began in Nicosia Dec. 19.

Denktash and Vassiliou will meet again next Monday.

A Greek Cypriot source, speaking on condition he not be named, told the AP Vassiliou's proposals focused on preserving unity "so that all Cypriots can live and cooperate together in peace in an independent state."

He said they aim at setting up "a working federal system capable of functioning effectively so that progress is facilitated for all and confidence is generated for both sides strengthening loyalty to the institutions of the federa-



Rauf Denktash

The Greek Cypriot proposals also are in line with U.N. resolutions calling for withdrawal of an estimated 30,000 Turkish troops and 50,000 mainland settlers from northern Cyprus, and the return of 200,000 Greek Cypriot refugees to their homes there.

## 2 killed in Tel Aviv beach shootout

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli killed one person and wounded another when he sprayed a Tel Aviv beach with gunfire Monday and a pursuing soldier accidentally shot dead a passer-by, police said.

The gunman, Pinchas Vaknin, shot dead a 30-year-old Israeli and seriously wounded a woman when he opened fire on a vehicle at Tel Baruch, a beach frequented by prostitutes.

Vaknin surrendered after police shot him in the leg during a 1½-kilometre chase down the beach.

"The gunman killed one man before police shot and wounded him. A reservist soldier ran over to help a nearby base and came under fire from the gunman shooting in all directions," a police spokesman said.

The soldier fired back with his rifle and tragically shot dead a tractor driver who was on his vehicle in the trajectory," he said.

Israel radio said the soldier mistook the tractor driver for the gunman.

Police first thought Vaknin was a guerrilla. They alerted army bases in the area and brought troops in to capture the gunman.

Vaknin, 25, had a record for robbery and illegal possession of weapons. He was armed with 300 more bullets and nine knives, police said.

The shooting came just before noon in Tel Baruch, a deserted beach known as a hangout for prostitutes about two kilometres north of Tel Aviv's sprawling resort tourist centre and less than two kilometres from the main coastal highway.

Police said Vaknin first opened fire on a prostitute who was with a man in a parked car, killing the man and seriously wounding the woman in the head.

## Israelis expel 4 from 'security zone'

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli troops and allied militia expelled three Lebanese women and a man from Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon, raising to 74 the number of "deportees" from the area this month.

Police said the women, all teachers, were expelled from the village of Shibaa. The man, Yousef Sleem, 18, is from Houla. Police identified the women as Youma Markiz, 21, Majida Ghader, 29, and Insaq Ali Hinnawi, 21.

Markiz told reporters after arriving in this village just north of the "security zone" that an officer of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia told her that she and her colleagues were being expelled "because they had participated in demonstrations against the establishment of an Israeli-sponsored local administration in Shibaa."

"They also accused us of inciting our students against this

administration," added Markiz.

Last Wednesday, Israeli troops and the SLA expelled 40 civilians, including seven women and 25 children, from Shibaa after protest marches by the inhabitants rejecting the creation of local administration.

Shibaa is within the operational zone of the Norwegian battalion attached to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The 5,800-strong, nine-nation UNIFIL has been based in South Lebanon since March 1978. Its area of operations overlaps with the "security zone."

Markiz said the peacekeepers did not intervene when the expulsion order was issued.

She added: "They (UNIFIL soldiers) usually just inform their headquarters in Nagoura."

Israel set up the 10-to-16 kilometres deep "security zone" when it withdrew the bulk of its invading army from South Lebanon in 1985, three years after invading the country.

## Iran to flog four over 'ideal woman' blunder

NICOSIA (R) — Iran sentenced four radio officials Tuesday to be flogged and jailed for an interview in which a woman is reported to have chosen a soap opera star as a role model instead of the Prophet Mohammad's daughter.

Spiritual leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, without giving details of what he called the shameful programme, had threatened Monday that the person responsible would be executed if the insult was deliberate.

The court which tried the four just three days after the programme was aired found there was no malicious intent, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported.

But the court found the broad-

The Tehran daily Resalat reported Monday a woman interviewed on the programme said she could not accept the Prophet's daughter Fatima as a role model because she lived 1,400 years ago.

She said she would rather style herself on the female star of a Japanese soap opera.

The soap opera is one of the most popular programmes on Iranian television and city streets are deserted when it is shown during prime time Saturday nights.

Parliamentary Speaker Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani told a women's conference in Tehran Monday that according to reports he had seen, the interviewees said women would be disappointed if they tried to emulate Fatima because they would never attain her level virtue.

Khomeini said in a letter to the director of radio and television, Mohammad Hashemi, who is Rafsanjani's brother, that senior executives would be severely punished if similar insults were aired in future.

## U.S. invites Iran to take first step towards dialogue

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A State Department spokesman reaffirmed U.S. willingness to open a dialogue with Iran Monday and took issue with an Iranian official's blame of Washington for a continuing impasse.

Restating what had been the Reagan administration position, department spokesman Charles Redman said the United States was prepared to open an "authoritative dialogue" with Iranian officials on a formal end to Iran's war with Iraq, a cessation for Iranian support for terrorism and freedom for American hostages in Lebanon.

The administration believes that Iran may have some influence over the groups holding the hostages.

The advent of a new administration in Washington has heightened speculation about an easing of tensions between the two countries.

In his inaugural address, President George Bush appealed to Iran for help in freeing the hostages and promised a reciprocal gesture of good will if Iran was receptive to the idea.

Since then, however, the two sides have disagreed on which one should take the first step.

Redman's comments Monday were touched off by remarks by Iran's deputy foreign minister for European and American affairs, Mohammad Javad Larjani, who called on the United States to show good will by making some unilateral gestures.

Specifically, Larjani said the United States should pay at least token compensation to families of the 290 persons, mostly Iranians, who died when a U.S. navy vessel shot down an Iranian airliner July 3.

Redman said the United States remains committed to compensation but that Iran has not responded to requests for information about the families.

Larjani also said the United States could show good will by releasing "undisputed" funds tied up in litigation in the U.S.-Iran claims tribunal at the Hague.

Redman denied that there are any undisputed funds being discussed in that forum.

As an example, Redman cited a tribunal decision concern-

ing military property owned by Iran but still held by the United States. He noted that the tribunal decided that the United States was not obligated to return the property but to pay its value as of March 1981.

The tribunal was set up in 1981 as part of the settlement that led to the release of the 52 American hostages in Iran. It is designed to resolve financial and property claims the two countries have against each other.

At the White House, spokesman Martin Fitzwater said Monday: "If you're approaching this from the standpoint of some new signal, we believe the signal needs to come from the Iranians."

"They have influence over the hostages," Fitzwater added, referring to nine Americans believed held by Pro-Iranian extremists in Lebanon.

Owing to the 1985-86 sale of arms to Iran in exchange for hostages that became the worst scandal of Reagan's term, the United States is wary about any solution that could be perceived as a deal.

## JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 773111-19

### PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 ..... Koran  
15:40 ..... Programme review  
15:45 ..... Children's programmes  
17:15 ..... Programme on plants  
17:25 ..... Out of World  
18:30 ..... News summary in Arabic  
18:35 ..... Cairo News Message  
18:15 ..... Arabic series  
19:00 ..... Local programme  
19:30 ..... Common mistakes  
19:40 ..... Programme review  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Arabic series  
21:30 ..... Programme review  
21:40 ..... Wrestling  
22:30 ..... Varieties programme  
23:00 ..... News summary in Arabic  
23:10 ..... Programme (cont.)

### PROGRAMME TWO

17:30 ..... Champs Elysees  
19:30 ..... News in French  
19:15 ..... Antiques' list en Jordanie  
19:30 ..... News in Hebrew  
20:30 ..... News in Arabic  
20:30 ..... Don't wait up

21:10 ..... Documentary  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:20 ..... The Four Minute Mile

### PRAYER TIMES

05:06 ..... Fajr  
06:26 ..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr  
11:49 ..... Dhuhr  
14:47 ..... 'Asr  
17:13 ..... Maghrib  
18:32 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785.  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terzian Church Tel. 623566  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.  
Anglican Church Tel. 625383. Tel. 628543.  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771571.  
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326.  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255.  
Rainbow Congregation Tel. 822605.  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 81264

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.  
Some clouds appear on different altitudes with a chance for scattered rain specially in the southern and central regions. Winds will be southeasterly light to moderate. In Aqaba, it will be partly cloudy with northerly moderate wind and calm sea.

Amman 30 per cent. Aqaba 18 per cent.

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

AMMAN:  
Dr. Abdul Rahman Al Najjar 775050  
Dr. Mahmoud Jabr 896691  
Dr. Wa'el Kharabi 615035  
Dr. Anwar Al 'Aqrawi 642696  
Fire pharmacy 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy 778336  
Al Asma pharmacy 637055  
Nairoukh pharmacy 623672  
Al Salam pharmacy 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Amman 30 per cent. Aqaba 18 per cent.

## EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department ..... 661111  
Civil Defence Immediate ..... 630431  
Rescue ..... 199  
Civil Defence Emergency ..... 611111  
Fire Brigade ..... 622090/93  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 656390/91  
Public Security Department ..... 656000 / 685111  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage ..... 656390/91  
Complaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality ..... 787111  
Complaints ..... 661111  
Telephone Information (Directory assistance) ..... 12  
Overseas Calls ..... 17  
Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs ..... 661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 661111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power

Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 06-53200  
Queen Alia Int. Airport ..... 06-52000

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre ..... 813813/32  
Khaldi Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6  
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 64241/2  
Jabal Amman Maternity ..... 642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 644171/4  
Palestine, Shmeisani ..... 669131  
Shmeisani Hospital ..... 645845  
Al-Muasher Hospital ..... 66727/9  
The Islamic, Abdali ..... 771101/3  
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh ..... 77511/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital ..... 602240/50  
ARQA ..... 674155  
Zarga Govt. Hospital ..... (09)983323  
Zarga National Hospital ..... (09)91071  
Ibn Sina Hospital ..... (09)966732  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital ..... (02)275555  
Greek Catholic Hospital ..... (02)27275  
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital ..... (02)247100

### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg  
Apple ..... 400 / 400  
Banana ..... 350 / 350  
Banana (Mukammal) ..... 300 / 250  
Beans ..... 680 / 620  
Broad beans ..... 780 / 780  
Cabbage ..... 150 / 100  
Carrots ..... 240 / 200  
Cauliflower ..... 200 / 150  
Cucumbers ..... 480 / 400  
Dates ..... 600 / 300  
Eggplant ..... 180 / 120  
Garlic ..... 170 / 120  
Grapefruit ..... 240 / 200  
Lemon ..... 240 / 200  
Lettuce (per one) ..... 120 / 100  
Marrow (large) ..... 340 / 300  
Marrow (small) ..... 480 / 400  
Orange (Shamouni) ..... 380 / 300  
Orange (local) ..... 280 / 200  
Onion (dry) ..... 220 / 160  
Onion (green) ..... 240 / 200  
Pepper (hot) ..... 540 / 500  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 440 / 400  
Potato ..... 250 / 200  
Spinach ..... 150 / 100  
Mandarin ..... 320 / 280  
Tomatoes ..... 200 / 150

## DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

1) .....  
2) .....  
3) .....  
4) .....  
5) .....  
Call app. Bo. Fel



## Qudah: Imported drugs are free of customs

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — All imported medicine and pharmaceutical products are free of customs duty according to Customs Department Director Adel Qudah.

Qudah was commenting on recent reports in the press about imported drugs and their prices, but did not elaborate.

Medicine importers in Jordan were earlier reported seeking a further 10 to 12 per cent increase in prices of drugs on top of a 30 to 40 per cent hike they were allowed last month.

Minister of Health Zuhair Malhas said that the local manufacturers who have not yet raised their prices in the wake of last

year's depreciation of the dinar, are now demanding a 30 per cent hike.

The minister confirmed that both requests particularly the one by the local manufacturers were under consideration, but that no price increases will be allowed for the next three to six months despite pressure from manufacturers and agents of foreign drugs.

Malhas said that local manufacturers were urged by the Ministry of Health to expand their share in the local market from 30 to 40 per cent previously to around 80 per cent to reduce dependency on imports.

## Jordan, Italy discuss expanding Salt Handicrafts Training Centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Director General of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) Ina'm Al Mufti and the Italian Ambassador to Jordan Francisco De Curten Tuesday attended a meeting held at the Italian embassy to discuss possibility of expanding the Salt Handicrafts Training Centre.

They also discussed means of enhancing bilateral cooperation in the field of handicrafts and prospects for Italy's continued finance of the project.

The expansion is warranted to enable the centre, which has now become a specialised national project, to offer new courses other than ceramics and weaving, currently offered by the centre.

The project aims to revive, maintain and develop the traditional handicrafts through the training of a new generation of craftsmen. It is carried out by Noor Al Hussein Foundation and Salt Development Corporation in cooperation with the Italian

Company for Technical Cooperation and Engineering (Cotecno), which has been assigned by the Italian government, as the main financier to do so.

Tuesday's meeting was also attended by the Jordanian Coordinator of the Project, Aida Al Mutlaq, the Italian coordinator of the project Marco Spada and the representative of the Salt Development Corporation Anis Muasher.

## EC grants JD 1.3m. to help finance study, plans for Waleh-Nakhileh Dam

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Community (EC) has granted Jordan JD 1.3 million to help finance feasibility studies and prepare final designs for the construction of the Waleh-Nakhileh Dam at the Mujib River Basin in the southern regions of Jordan.

The grant was included in the text of an agreement signed here Tuesday by Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and Christian Falkowski, head of the EC delegation in Jordan, who took up his post in September 1988.

According to an official announcement the grant is part of a protocol signed by the two sides in 1987 and which provides for a grant of JD 22.75 million to help Jordan carry out development projects.

The European Investment Bank (EIB) recently signed an agreement to provide a JD 11.05 million loan to Jordan to help it carry out the Waleh-Nakhileh Dam.

To date, the EIB has signed three loans for a total of 33 million European Currency Units (ECU) to help the Kingdom carry



Minister of Planning Taher Kanaan and head of the European Community delegation in Jordan Christian Falkowski Tuesday sign a grant agreement in Amman (Petra photo)

out projects in industry, agriculture and energy.

In February 1988 Jordan and the EC signed a five-year protocol and EC officials said that 40 per cent of the total assistance to the Kingdom will be used for water and agricultural projects.

An EC statement last month said that approval has been given

to finance two projects in the sectors of water and agriculture. The funds are to be drawn from the third financial protocol of the Jordan-EC Cooperation Agreement.

The protocol gives particular attention to supporting food production and improving irrigation facilities for farming.

## Police, Interpol seek embezzler

AMMAN (J.T.) — Police and Interpol are investigating a \$140,000 embezzlement case involving the American Community School, informed sources told the Jordan Times Tuesday.

Students at the school said they were told the school accountant, Issa Durzi, allegedly embezzled the money and escaped outside the country last December.

The sources told the Jordan Times that the school assured students that its financial status was sound and that it would not raise the student's tuition fees to compensate for the loss of funds.

### NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

**NEW VEHICLE PLATES:** The Cabinet Tuesday approved the new regulation on vehicle plates, whereby each vehicle will carry a four-digit plate, together with two letters from the Arabic alphabet and the word Jordan in both English and Arabic. According to the new regulation, which will be in force as of July 1, 1989, the government vehicles will have red plates, the private vehicles will carry white plates and the public transport vehicles will carry green plates, while the vehicles belonging to the diplomatic missions will carry yellow plates. The present plates will be replaced in two years' time as of July 1, 1989.

**MALAYSIAN ARMY CHIEF:** Malaysian Army Chief of Staff General Tan Sri Hashem Tuesday made tours of a number of military positions. These included the King Hussein Medical Centre where he visited different sections and called at the Queen Alia Heart Centre. He visited army front line positions where he met with commanders and officers and was briefed on their duties. Gen. Tan later called at the King Hussein Bridge and the Martyr's Monument set up to commemorate the Karameh Battle. (Petra)

**FRIENDS OF ARCHAEOLOGY:** Former editor of the Jordan Times and an archaeology enthusiast, Rami G. Khouri, has been elected President of the Friends of Archaeology in Amman, replacing Mrs. Widad Kassar. The group brings together Jordanians and non-Jordanians who are interested in the region's archaeology. The group also organises field trips to historic sites in the Middle East. (J.T.)

**JD 35,000 FOR THE NEEDY:** The Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) Tuesday started distributing in-kind assistance to the needy families in Irbid, Balqa and the Jordan Valley areas. The JNRCS President, Ahmad Abu Qoura said that the number of beneficiaries from the JD 35,000 worth in-kind contributions is 2,500 needy families. (Petra)

**PEOPLE'S ARMY:** The fourth batch of the People's Army recruits in Karak Governorate were graduated Tuesday at a special ceremony held at Karak Community College. At the end of the celebration, commander of the People's Army presented the excellent recruits with token awards. (Petra)

**HASHISH PEDDLER JAILED:** The military governor Tuesday endorsed the military court's verdict sentencing Samir Al Badr Hassan to two years in prison and a fine of JD 500 after finding him guilty of the acquisition of hashish. (Petra)

**EGYPTIAN TROUPE IN AQABA:** South Sinai Governor Major-General Mohammad Nouredin, accompanied by the Egyptian National Folklore Troupe Tuesday arrived in Aqaba on a four-day official visit to Jordan for talks on scopes of cooperation between Aqaba region and South Sinai Governorate. (Petra)

## Mu'ta opens seminar for heads of municipal councils

MA'AN (Petra) — Mu'ta University Tuesday opened a three-day training seminar here for 80 heads of municipal and rural councils in the southern regions of the country to orient them on financial and administrative aspects of their municipalities work.

Assessment of projects, matters related to loans, development plans and preparing budgets for the councils, as well as dealing with the public and supervising the implementation of projects, are also on the agenda, according to Ma'an Governor Jamal Momani who opened the meeting.

Momani said that the seminar

was of extreme importance for the heads of councils and their staff and is considered part of the national effort to transform their regions from services beneficiaries into productive communities.

Momani paid tribute to Mu'ta University for its concern over the advancement of the local communities in southern Jordan and its plans to raise the standards and performance of the staff employed by local municipalities.

Mu'ta University which had earlier organised a similar seminar for councils in Karak plans to hold another one in Tafleeh.

## AACO begins 2-day talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The commercial committee of the Arab Air Carriers Organisations (AACO) Tuesday opened a two-day meeting at the Amman Plaza Hotel to discuss commercial policies for Arab airlines in the light of developments in international air transport operations.

A spokesman for AACO at the Plaza Hotel said that the delegates will also discuss a new pricing system

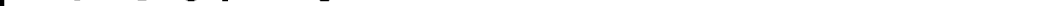
which will go into effect by July 1989, as well as the committee's achievements in the past year especially in the field of an automatic reservation systems to be applied by Arab airlines.

Taking part in the meeting are delegates from North Yemen, Kuwait, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Libya, South Yemen and Jordan, as well as, the AACO secretary general.

## Students join drive to combat smoking

A TOTAL of 120 students from Al Ma'mounieh Secondary School Tuesday joined in the drive by the Ministry of Health to combat smoking and to explain its dangers. The children, carrying notices calling for giving up smoking, marched to the

Ministry of Health where they were received and addressed by Health Minister Zuhair Malhas who stressed the ministry's resolve to achieve the goal of "smoke free society" (Petra photo)



## QAF team ends visit to Tunisia

TUNIS (Petra, J.T.) — A team from the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund (QAF) has wound up a visit to Tunisia during which its members toured institutions concerned with voluntary and charitable work, as well as traditional handicrafts centres.

During the week-long visit, the

team members met with the Tunisian ministers of Industry, Tourism and Traditional Industries and Social Affairs, as well as other concerned officials to discuss cooperation between QAF and Tunisian institutions in textile, wool dyeing and pottery — all local handicrafts in Jordan and Tunisia.

Tunisia.

The team members visited handicraft centres and examined techniques used in production.

QAF is a Jordanian welfare institution which plans and executes social voluntary and charitable activities and whose operations aim to extend social services directly to those who need the through programmes designed and implemented in cooperation with concerned authorities.

By the end of 1988, QAF had established 19 social welfare centres through which assistance is extended to various local communities.

Khashman and Fares Arabiyat. The eleven winners were chosen out of a total of 28 candidates in the elections that were held at two different stations one for males and the other for females.

## Salt mayor reelected

SALT (J.T.) — The results of municipal elections held in Salt announced early Tuesday revealed that the present Mayor Abdul Razzak Nsour has won a majority of votes entitling him to a third term in office.

Deputy Governor of Salt Talaat Nawalshah announced the results which revealed that Nsour won 7,341 votes out of a total of 18,145 votes, and that the following were elected as council members: Abdullah Nsour, Moussa Al Bahboub, Zuhair Al Hussein, Ahmad Hiyari, Salem Khreisat, Subhi Bahboub, Saleh Ghuneimat, Abdul Ra'ouf Karakash, Ali Anawseh, Marwan

A total of 35 ballot boxes were used in the elections which were said to have been conducted in a calm and orderly atmosphere.

According to the deputy governor there was a big turnout of voters, and voting which was due to end at five in the evening was extended for one more hour to allow for more voters to exercise their rights.

## Jordan to host conference on cancer in March 1989

AMMAN (J.T.) — An international conference on cancer will be held in Amman in March 1989 to discuss various aspects of cancer and means of treatment, according to an announcement by the Jordanian Anti-Cancer Society which is so sponsoring the event.

A society spokesman said that specialists from the Arab World and foreign countries will deliver lectures on five different types of cancer. According to the spokesman, the creation of a federation of Arab anti-cancer societies will be declared during the conference.

Jordan currently treats cancer

patients at Al Bashir Hospital where the centre for radiology and nuclear medicine was recently upgraded with new up-to-date equipment.

Ministry of Health sources said last summer that nearly 60 patients visit the centre on a daily basis to receive treatment, which is only available at the hospital's centre.

Four qualified Jordanian physicians are working at the centre in addition to a part-time physician from the Royal Medical Services.

The centre also employs eight technicians in addition to six physicians specialised in medical physics and radiology protection.



General Manager Francis Keenan presents Omar Jamil with the award as the best employee for 1988 at the annual ceremony held at the Marriott Hotel to honour the hotel's staff.

## Marriott honours staff

THE AMMAN Marriott Hotel has honoured its staff for their outstanding efforts in the past year, and presented to them awards and prizes at a ceremony attended by the hotel's General Manager Francis Keenan.

A local employee, Omar Jamil won the title of the exemplary employee for 1988 for his distinguished services. Jamil received a financial prize, two return tickets to Cairo and a five-day stay at the Cairo Marriott Hotel, in addition to the Marriott Golden Shield.

Employees who had completed 10 years of service at the Marriott Hotel were also honoured at the ceremony.

## Jordanian, Egyptian businessmen discuss joint development projects

LUXOR (Petra, J.T.) — Jordanian and Egyptian businessmen have opened a meeting in this Egyptian city to review areas where they can embark on joint development projects and boost trade between their countries.

The three-day meeting will discuss matters related to the role of the private sectors in both countries towards developing the national economy and to increase investments in joint projects, according to a spokesman following the first meeting.

The Egyptian side is led by Mohammad Ghanem, president of the Egyptian Businessmen Association, who emphasised the need for private sectors in both countries to carry out projects

which have been approved by the Egyptian and Jordanian governments.

The head of the Jordanian team, Mamdouh Abu Hassan, said that any cooperation between the businessmen should enhance the march towards integration between Jordan and Egypt.

Abu Hassan, who is also president of the Jordanian Businessmen's Association, said that the ongoing arrangements for grouping Jordan, Egypt, Iraq and North Yemen into a regional economic bloc is bound to open further avenues for businessmen to offer their contribution to the Arab economy.

Other speakers at the first meeting, according to the spokes-

man, called for an enlarged meeting to group businessmen from the four countries that are planning to set up the regional economic group.

The meeting will hear reports by sub-committees set up by the two sides to discuss projects in transport, trade, investment, contracting business and tourism.

Abu Hassan, who leads a group of 24 Jordanian businessmen to the meetings, said earlier that businessmen from Egypt and Jordan will study the prospect of taking part in the implementation of projects planned by the joint holding company and means to encourage investments in both countries.

A total of 80 businessmen are taking part in the meetings.

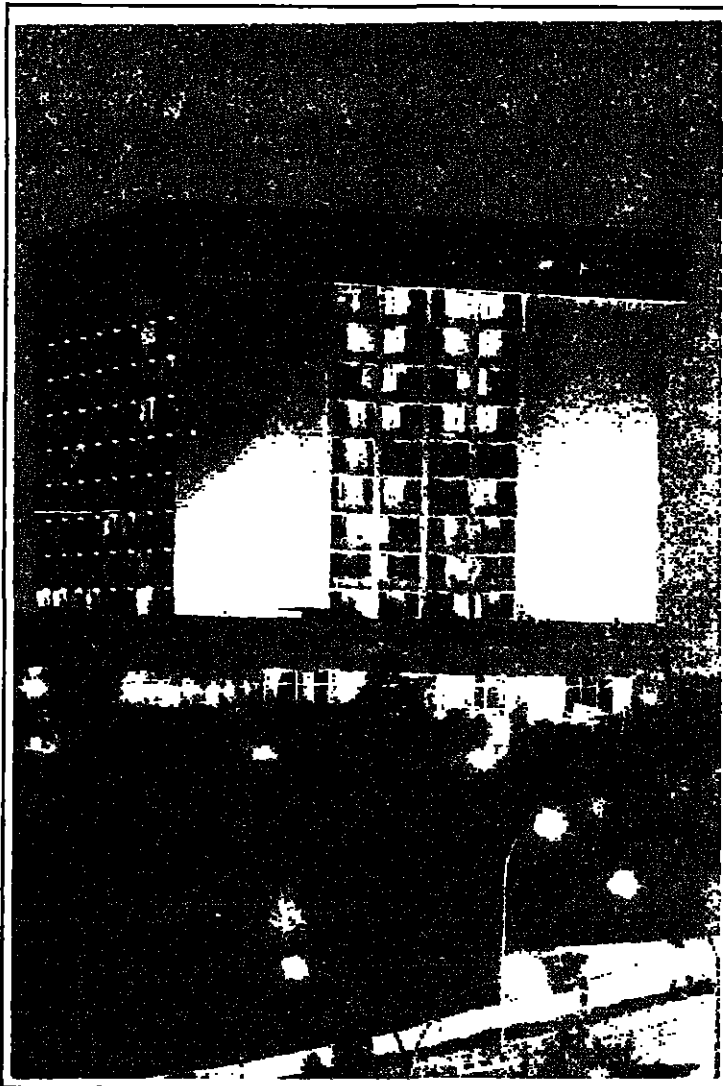
## 13-year-old boy kills 6-year-old child

AMMAN (J.T.) — A six-year-old child was killed by a 13-year-old boy at Jabal Nuzah district in Amman Monday following a quarrel between the elder boy and the victim's elder brother, according to a report in the local press Tuesday.

Local residents said that the 13-year-old boy and the victim's brother were in the same class at a local school where they quarrelled over trivial matters on the previous day. That this quarrel, they said, prompted the 13-year-old boy identified only as A.R.A.

to use a switch knife to kill the little child in the first elementary class.

Another report said that 89-year-old woman died in Jabal Hussein as a result of a fire that engulfed her home.



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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

\* A plastic art exhibition by Egyptian artist Yassin Ibrahim Mohammad at the Housing Bank Gallery.

\* The Jordanian Plastic Art season which includes a general exhibition of works by Jordanian artists at the Professional Association Complex in Irbid.

### PIANO RECITAL

\* A piano recital by Lebanese born American pianist Walid Raja Horani at the Royal Cultural Centre - 8:00 p.m.



## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1978.

جوردين تايمز يومية عربية سياسية مستقلة تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times Advertising Department.

## U.N.'s good office pays

U.N. SPECIAL envoy Jan Eliasson's just concluded mission to Iraq and Iran appears to be a remarkable success on two counts: First because he succeeded in persuading both countries to hold face-to-face talks to curb violations of their ceasefire agreement; and second because both countries have agreed to set up a joint military committee to preserve the ceasefire in the Gulf. The latter agreement is by far the more promising of the two because it has the potential to deliver the kind of breakthrough that can develop the ceasefire situation into peace. The potency and relevancy of this potential can be best appreciated against the backdrop of the remaining principal obstacles that threaten to undermine even the fragile ceasefire that still exists in the Gulf. One of these lingering obstacles is of course the clearing of the Shatt Al Arab waterway, and the other is clearly the complete withdrawal of the troops of both countries to pre-war borders.

If the agreement to form a joint military committee could be proven to be functional and viable, then it would be possible to expand its mandate and even its composition in order to consign to it the task of dredging the Shatt Al Arab waterway, thus clearing the way for the remaining task of affecting a complete troop withdrawal to pre-war borders. Any such expanded joint committee would have to include the U.N. presence in order to afford it with the kind of muscle and neutrality that are essential for performing its difficult mandate. Such a scheme embodies the necessary ingredients to break the deadlock that is still paralysing the Iran-Iraq negotiations for such a long time.

It is clear by now that had the mission of the U.N. envoy to the Gulf failed, the probability of the break up of hostilities between Baghdad and Tehran would have increased substantially. With such ominous deterioration in Iranian-Iraqi relations, the whole stability and security of the Gulf region would have of course been undermined. That is why it was most timely on the part of the United Nations to make another move at this juncture with a view to removing some of the major obstacles that are still in the way of a just and permanent resolution to the Gulf conflict. The agreements just concluded between Iran and Iraq, through the good offices of the U.N. envoy, should usher a new beginning in the stalemated negotiations between the two countries by breathing new life into the negotiations in a concrete and operational way. With such positive developments, the whole Gulf region, indeed the whole world, can now sigh once again with some relief.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

A proposal by Yitzhak Rabin designed to end the uprising in the occupied Arab territories is the subject of Tuesday's editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily. The paper said that Rabin has proposed that elections be held in the occupied lands on condition that the uprising be stopped and provided that Jordan enters into negotiations with Israel. In addition, it said, Rabin wants all the Jewish settlements to remain in the occupied lands and that Israel be totally responsible for them. What Rabin hopes to achieve is to find substitutes for the present PLO leaders and to win Jordan's support for this Israeli conspiracy, though he realises that such proposals can by no means be accepted by the Arabs in general and the PLO and Jordan in particular, the paper noted. It said that Rabin, like Shamir and other Zionist leaders, wants to impose on the Arabs the Camp David agreements and is trying by all means to lure them to it through meaningless proposals and statements. The paper said that Rabin and his colleagues can by no means penetrate the solid unity of the Palestinians under Israel's control nor can they ever sow seeds of dissonance between the PLO and the Palestinians on the one hand and the Arab countries particularly Jordan on the other, simply because Jordan seeks a just and durable solution that would enable the Palestinians to regain their full rights and all their usurped lands.

The editor of Al Ra'i daily says in Tuesday's edition that no one can ever expect from the Arab League's peace committee to come up with a miracle solution for the Lebanese problem. Rakan Al Majali says that the present situation in Lebanon did not come about as a result of internal disputes alone, but also as a consequence of foreign intervention — clearly reflecting regional and international conflicts around the embattled nation. The problem in Lebanon is not a question of finding a president or finding a government to rule all parties, because we know that the civil war was at its peak when the country had a president and a central government in Beirut, the writer says. Neither can the solution to the crisis come through a reconciliation between the prime ministers in the eastern and the western sectors of the city but rather through the re-establishment of the political balance in the country, he adds. What is more, the writer says, there must be an end to Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon because it had been the real cause behind the destabilisation of the country. Above all, he says, there must be an end to Iran's ambitions to set up a state under its influence in Lebanon before real peace can be established.

Al Dustour daily dwells on mediation efforts by an Arab League ministerial committee trying to end the conflict in Lebanon and bring peace to that country. The paper said that the warring parties, which are taking part in meetings with the committee in Tunis can find numerous common denominators as a basis for agreement and an end to the dispute. There is dire need for agreement among these parties at present to re-construct the political institutions in Lebanon and prevent a further deterioration in the security situation, the paper noted. It said that the political atmosphere in the Arab World is very favourable for an agreement among these parties and also for the Arab League to help propose a settlement that ensures the rights of all parties and groups.

NATO members are locked in a dispute over sharing of the costs of defence in the area under the alliance's umbrella — virtually all of the Middle East, Europe and anywhere else that Western interests are involved. The burden-sharing issue has a direct bearing on defence planning in the Middle East.

By Hans-Heino Kopietz

LONDON — Defence strategies in the Middle East increasingly are likely to be formulated in the shadow of defence planning in the region's immediate neighbourhood — specifically Europe under the umbrella of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

NATO is going through a historically trying phase, with controversy raging across the Atlantic on the question of sharing costs and responsibilities for the defence of the West, as well as Japan, and their interests in the Middle East. The Gulf naval operations in the last phase of the Iraq-Iran war conclusively proved that Europe and the Middle East are inseparable.

The developing contacts between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organisation since the Algiers declaration and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's clarifications to Washington have served only to re-emphasise the strategic bonds between NATO and the Middle East.

Although the Middle East has been a major focal point for the U.S. and its NATO allies, the Iraq-Iran war, America's "special relationship" with Israel and the U.S. confrontation with Libya have posed major problems for the NATO alliance.

The introduction of naval task forces into the Gulf was ostensibly to protect Western interests but in reality to force Iran to disengage.

As the United States dispatched the largest naval contingent to the Gulf, many U.S. public officials feel that the U.S. is paying a disproportionate amount for the protection of Europe's, and especially Japan's, oil supplies.

How the burden-sharing in the Western alliance evolves, therefore, is evidently relevant to the whole gamut of Middle East planning, from the defence to social and economic sectors. It is from the military channels, however, that NATO developments are most likely to influence the Middle East and these deserve scrutiny.

Almost from the first day that the American presidential race commenced all candidates attacked NATO's European allies and Japan for not assuming a "fair" financial share in the defence of the alliance. Pat Schroeder of the House Armed Services Committee, which is investigating the "burden," has been particularly vociferous, as have been Senator Sam Nunn and his colleagues.

The U.S. Defence Department twice this year dispatched several high ranking officials, notably Deputy Secretary of Defence

William Taft, to Europe. On a recent visit to Washington, NATO Secretary General Manfred Wörner, West Germany's ex-defence minister, was notably surprised by the degree of vehemence on the subject he encountered in Congress. Not unjustifiably had Lord Carrington, Wörner's predecessor, referred to the issue as a "smouldering volcano".

The issue is as old as the alliance itself. Periodically American politicians would raise it. Senator Robert Taft started the controversy in 1951, followed by Senator Mike Mansfield in 1966, and Senator Nunn a few years ago. Mansfield even sponsored a resolution calling for a phased withdrawal of American troops from Europe. The same threat is being issued yet again.

Although, as one French diplomat acidly put it, "the seasonal burden-sharing show has started again," the issue is not just a show. While it is true that during an American election year the problem is dramatised, and the public is blinded by "creative statistics," there is a problem. It is another matter that no-one so far has been able to arrive at a reasonable answer.

NATO is investigating it again and a joint recommendation is expected before the end of the year. What then is the problem? The essence of the U.S. congressional argument is that the Europeans are not spending as much as the U.S. in terms of a percentage of Gross Domestic National Product.

The U.S. spends about 6.5 per cent of its GDP, compared with U.K.'s approximately 5.5 per cent, about 4 per cent for France and just above 3.0 per cent for West Germany. There are, however, some countries in the alliance, such as Turkey and Greece, the poorer states in the alliance, which also spend over four per cent — in the case of the latter nearer 6 per cent. What this argument overlooks is the size of the economy, and the burden it is on the national economy.

The 6.5 per cent of the U.S. GDP of \$4,461 billion generates about \$290 billion, while Greece's 5.6 per cent generated \$2.4 billion in 1986. Greece's per capita income is just \$5,000 compared to \$18,000 in the USA. Japan, with the second largest GDP in the world (\$2,119 billion in 1987) generates with one per cent \$25.5 billion in defence expenditures, the fifth largest in the non-Communist world. In 1984-5 Saudi Arabia spent 21 per cent of its GDP generating \$23 billion for defence, while Israel has been known to spend over 30 per cent

of its GDP for its forces.

The second argument used by American critics is that despite a NATO agreement in 1978 to raise defence expenditure 3 per cent annually, only a few have kept this promise. The United States, Britain, Canada, and some of the smaller members (such as Greece) achieved the target, but not consistently. However both the United States and Britain have been forced to reduce their defence spending in the past three years, while others continued a smaller increase or none at all.

A third argument often cited by congressional sources is that the U.S. spends \$171 billion on the defence of Europe and Japan. Pat Schroeder even wrote an article in *The New York Times* on May 3, 1988, citing this questionable figure. That such a sum, particularly in light of America's gigantic deficit and serious problems, would arouse public anger is not surprising. More level-headed analysts will point out, however, that it is virtually impossible to calculate which portion of the defence efforts goes to Europe and Japan.

The Pentagon has been trying to defuse congressional arguments even at the expense of contradicting George Bush. President Ronald Reagan's Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci testified to Congress that the allies are providing 90 per cent of the manpower in Europe, that they provide forward bases and staging areas at no cost to the U.S., that the Europeans have been assisting in the Gulf, in Chad and in Afghanistan.

The secretary also pointed out that the U.S. defence budget envelopes the U.S. total global commitment, not just Europe and Japan. And on June 17, 1988 Reagan is reported to have stated: "The allies are pulling their weight and that their share of the burden should not be increased."

To Carlucci's argument Wörner and British Defence Secretary John Younger would add that Europe not only provides 90 per cent of the available manpower, but it provides 85 per cent of the tanks, 95 per cent of the artillery, 80 per cent of aircraft and that it can mobilise 7 million troops within days of a conflict as compared with the 3.5 million available U.S. manpower.

Wörner furthermore points out that West Germany provides \$22 billion worth of buildings, has a cheap conscript army compared to the expensive professional U.S. army, and that over 600,000 air sorties are flown over a country the size of Oregon.

Both the Pentagon and the European allies therefore are trying to shift the congressional arguments away from the knotty problem of finances towards the qualitative contribution to the

common defence. Moreover, they argue that defence costs are really related to "force goals and missions," and cannot be measured in terms of percentages of GDP. It is obvious, for example, that Denmark's defence requirements are considerably smaller than West Germany's and that its "threat perception" is considerably different from that of the U.S.

And that is the core of the problem, and has been for some time. To what extent does West Europe today see the Soviet Union as an immediate threat, especially in the era of glasnost? Western Europe generally, and the industrialised countries at large, face serious internal problems. With unemployment running at 9-12 per cent in Britain, France, West Germany and Italy, and with a rapidly declining population the governments now,

but especially in the coming decade will face dramatic financial problems. In the mid-eighties, West Germany alone was spending 70 per cent of the total budget on health, education, and social security, compared to Britain's 52 per cent, and the United States' 47 per cent.

For many in the U.S. Congress it is a simple question of financial burden-sharing. For non-governmental observers, however, it is a question of waste, even corruption, redundant weapon systems, and in the view of David Abshire, the former U.S. representative at NATO, a question of "better return of defence investments." In his view, the improvement of "alliance armaments cooperation" is the most important issue.

It is to be hoped that, with a new president in the White House, calmer heads will prevail

and rethink the American position. Where escalating costs are concerned, the Europeans face their own dilemmas. Increasingly the debate within NATO is about its purpose in the 1990's, and the individual contributions of its members.

It is also about NATO's reach, as illustrated recently in the Gulf operations and as no doubt will be reflected each time a crisis threatens the multifaceted alliance. With NATO interests transcending the geographical boundaries of its constituents, it is hard to think of a major crisis that will not concern NATO. It is this reality that military and economic planners elsewhere, adversaries or allies, will have to come to terms with. — Academic File. Hans-Heino Kopietz is a senior analyst with the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), London.

## NATO allies fear they are losing public opinion to Gorbachev

By Richard Balmforth

Reuters

MUNICH, West Germany — The NATO allies fear that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev is winning the battle for the hearts and minds of their public and they seem at a loss over what to do about it.

NATO politicians and defence planners say Gorbachev's charm offensive towards the West and his rapid-fire arms initiatives seem to be mesmerising Western public opinion and cutting the ground from beneath the Western alliance.

They say a big majority of the Western public now feels the cold war is over and is questioning the extent of the Soviet military threat — the reason for NATO's existence.

Unless Western governments can re-educate their public, NATO officials foresee increasing difficulties in negotiating arms control with Moscow from a position of strength and pushing through defence programmes in years ahead.

The depth of Western concern emerged startlingly at a weekend defence seminar held in Munich and dominated by the public relations challenge posed by Gorbachev.

"Our population feels more and more secure. The awareness of threat is waning," West German Defence Minister Rupert Scholz told the annual Wehrkunde meeting.

"Public opinions are less susceptible to the concept of military threat... The conviction is spreading that the post-war period has come to an end," Italian Defence Minister Valerio Zanone said.

U.S. senator John Glenn, referring to polls in West Germany showing favourable ratings for Gorbachev and poor ones for U.S. policies, said he feared a "trade wind" may be starting to blow and the allies would find it difficult to battle against.

West Germany, the key ally on the East-West front line, embodies the dilemma facing the alliance.

Bonn politicians from across the political spectrum said their policies reflected the opinion of a large sector of the 61 million population swayed by the new style Soviet leadership.

West Germany's upbeat view of Gorbachev and a desire to grasp the foreign policy opportunities he offers have played a part in leading Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition to stall on a decision to modernise NATO's short-range nuclear weapons.

The modernisation issue, on which the United States and Britain want Bonn to make a firm commitment this year, is now the hottest facing the alliance.

West Germany has traditionally had the image of NATO's soft underbelly but many NATO officials fear similar problems in other alliance countries.

For NATO, the battle for Western public opinion seems maddeningly unfair.

NATO officials watched in frustration earlier this month as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze grabbed world headlines with an announcement that Moscow would withdraw some short-range nuclear weapons from Eastern Europe.

"He was talking about 24 missile launchers. Whoever recalls that NATO has reduced its stockpile by 2,400 warheads since the

late 70s?" one NATO official said.

The Gorbachev challenge comes at an awkward time for the alliance as Washington presses the allies to shoulder more of the defence burden and coordinate their defence resources.

With Gorbachev making the public relations running, NATO officials fear the alliance could be made to look hawkish, inflexible and out of tune with changing times.

Speakers in Munich saw no alternative for NATO but to stick to its arms control agenda, regardless of Gorbachev, while seeking at the same time to explain NATO policies more effectively to Western audiences.

Dutch Defence Minister Frits Bolkestein said that although the perception of the Soviet threat was waning Western politicians should not be panicked into making concessions. "A negotiator that lets himself be hurried has lost the game."

Bolkestein also cautioned against over-interpretation of public opinion. "Talk of people not standing for this or that could become a self-fulfilling prophecy," he said.

Britain's ambassador to NATO, Sir Michael Alexander, taking issue with West German Social Democrats, said matters at stake were not ones "in which public opinion can simply be followed."

"It is the duty of the strategic community to be, if anything, pessimistic," he said.

"At a time when hope is breaking out all over, this is not a comfortable posture but our political leaders should not expect a comfortable life," Alexander said.

## Iran: Are the pragmatists winning the day?

By Youssef M. Ibrahim

PARIS — The Islamic regime of Iran will end its first decade in power this month with its revolutionary aims severely trimmed, its armed forces spent and its economy in urgent need of revival, according to experts on Iran.

These experts, who spoke recently at a conference in London devoted to Iran, said that a majority of Iranian leaders appear convinced of the need to rein in the country's revolutionary zeal in order to end Iran's isolation and set the country on the road to economic reconstruction.

But this majority, led by Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, or parliament, and commander of the army, continues to be hampered by alliances of hardline clerics and other leaders who are preventing the country from formulating a coherent foreign and domestic policy.

The experts agree that the role of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini as supreme religious and political guide of the Islamic revolution is fading. They say a republican regime is likely to lead revolutionary Iran in its second decade,

with executive power resting with pragmatists rather than ideologues.

A panel of experts assembled from Britain, Iraq, Iran, the United States, the Soviet Union and Pakistan, among other places, met at the British Royal Institute of International Affairs for a two-day conference, "The Iranian Revolution: Ten Years Later."

One of the participants, Mahmood Sari Olghalam, an Iranian professor of international relations in Tehran, said, "The most important change is the one happening inside the clergy as they adopt to the reality of the international system and debate how to set the border line between divine law and statecraft."

Faced with an annual birth rate of 4.4 per cent, one of the highest in the world, and the enormous damage the country suffered in eight years of fighting, as well as the revolutionary chaos of a decade, Iran is turning to the West and the East, looking for credits, commerce, technology and industrial aid. Its leadership accepts that the price for the help is to moderate its behaviour in world affairs.

According to the experts, Iran

is likely to meet with a grudging response from both the Soviet and Western blocs until it meets a number of demands.

Among these are Iran's bringing about the release of the remaining Western hostages, most of whom are believed to be held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon; a firm commitment to end attempts to destabilise the pro-Western Arab countries in the Gulf region, and the abstention from fomenting trouble among Muslim ethnic minorities in the Soviet Union.

Pauline Jackson, a British economic consultant who lived in Iran for 33 years and who edits a publication called Iran Monitor, said: "The reason Iran is not borrowing money is that no one wants to lend it money. Commercial banks will not take the lead on lending to Iran until they get the green light from the governments."

Ms. Jackson estimated that Iran would need \$15 billion this year simply to satisfy its basic economic needs, while its revenues from oil and other exports would not exceed \$8 billion to \$9 billion.

Iran's weakest point appears to be its army, which has two com-

ponents, the 220,000-member regular army and the 300,000-member Revolutionary Guards. Neither unit possesses much in the way of weapons compared with the countries surrounding Iran, including Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Jordan, and Turkey.

Anoushiravan Ebtehadi, an Iranian military affairs research fellow at the Gulf Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Exeter in England, said: "Purely in military-balance terms, Iran today is very weak. Take air power alone: it is surrounded by countries that possess hundreds of MiG-29s, Tornados, Mirage F-1s, Sukhoi 25s, several kinds of missiles and surveillance aircrafts. The advantage is overwhelming."

For these reasons, many experts believe, Iran has an interest in mending its fences with its Gulf neighbours and the world at large.

Although many of the experts said that Iran's revolution has had some lasting impact outside its borders, most agreed that its appeal to fellow Muslims has remained sectarian — primarily Shiite — in nature instead of revolutionary and inspirational.

Khalid Bin Sayeed, a Pakistani expert on Islamic resurgence and fundamentalism at Queen's University in Canada, said: "One of the reasons the initial Shiite demonstrations did not develop into a revolutionary movement and tended to deteriorate into acts of sabotage was that the cleric call for revolution that Iran had given did not fall on very responsive Sunni ears."

The majority of the world's estimated one billion Muslims are Sunnis. About 10 per cent are Shiites, including most of Iran's 55 million people.

Although a number of Iranian leaders contest these conclusions and still push for the retention of

revolutionary zeal, it is clear that the adherents of such policies are in eclipse. In the ascendancy are leaders like Mr. Rafsanjani, who has advocated the need to improve relations with neighbours and Western countries.

"Rafsanjani perhaps represents that element of the Iranian leadership which finds itself in a chastened mood," Mr. Sayeed said.

"Now that the war is over and Iran is faced with the formidable challenge of reconstructing a war-shattered economy," he said, "economic pragmatists and business and industrial managers are likely to become increasingly influential." — New York Times.

## JORDAN PRESS COMMENTARIES

### In defence of freedom

IN a column published in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Tuesday, Abdulrahman Hasanat, the opinion page editor at the Jordan Times, went out in defence of freedom of speech sparked by a storm of indignation among Muslims throughout the world over the highly-controversial book entitled "Satanic Verses" by Salman Rushdie.

Hasanat said the book contained "poetic language that mixes fiction with the ancient history as well as contemporary life in a continuous criticism of humanitarian concepts and beliefs, whether religious or scientific."

He argued that those who attacked the book were closing their minds to a thought that could enrich Islam rather than weaken the religion.

"What I cannot understand is for the Muslims to revolt against this book and other books while maintaining that they consider their religion as the best religion and the last. Can all poets, including Salman Rushdie, the Indian Muslim, smear the name of Islam?"

"If Salman Rushdie or anybody else has anything to say against Islam, then we must listen to it and study it and respond to it

rationality. And if Rushdie has lost his way, I do not consider burning his books and banning them from publication is the answer."

Hasanat said that such reaction as that of Muslims who demonstrated in London and burned Rushdie's books in Bradford "are demonstrating to people that they do not want people to know."

"If the first verse in the Koran tells us to 'read,' then why do we close our minds and hide from words?"

He concluded that people in the Muslim, Arab and Third World countries "continue to suffer from backwardness, poverty and ignorance because thought itself in these countries is backward. The main reason for this backwardness is the oppression of the freedom of speech."

"We must defend speech regardless of the source or contents... Any oppression of the freedom of speech with the excuse of protecting the feelings of people is a screaming accusation of the human mind and an insult to its intelligence and ability to differentiate between good and bad."

## W. German ultra right scores biggest gain since 60s

By John Kampfner

Reuters

BONN — West Germany's Republican Party on Sunday achieved the best result posted by an extreme right-wing party in the country for more than 20 years.

Led by a former officer in Hitler's SS, the Republicans gained around eight per cent of the vote in West Berlin state elections, according to provisional results.

The party was founded five years ago in the southern state of Bavaria as a more radical opposition to the locally dominant Christian Social Union, a party on the right of the West German political spectrum.

Republican Chairman Franz Schoenhuber, who was thrown out of his job at Bavarian television after writing a book glorifying Hitler's stormtroopers, declared triumphantly after the provisional results were announced: "Today the Germans have shown again the need for a democratically purified patriotism."

The result showed that extreme right-wingers could become a force again in West German politics. Between 1966 and 1969 the right wing National Democratic Party won up to 10 per cent in state polls, gaining representation in several legislatures.

With a view to keeping extremists out of power, the post-war West German constitution stipulates that a party must win more

than five per cent for its members to enter the federal or state parliaments.

Instead, the West Berlin election saw the Liberal Free Democrats fall under the five-per-cent threshold, thereby losing all seats in the legislature. Chancellor Helmut Kohl's ruling Christian Democrats (CDU) also lost heavily.

Because of West Berlin's special status under agreements between the World War II allies, the Republicans will be able to send two deputies to the Bonn parliament after the 1990 federal election.

West Berlin does not directly elect members to the Bonn parliament. The city's legislature meets in special session on the

date of a federal election to choose deputies to represent it in the West German parliament.

Commentators said the Republicans' xenophobic advertising campaign, in a city with the largest Turkish population of any outside Turkey, won it votes at the expense of the CDU. It also advocates much tougher law-and-order policies.

Schoenhuber, the son of a Bavarian butcher, said: "We are not extremists," defining the party as "right-conservative" and not as "extreme right."

Accompanied by more than a dozen party "friends" or strongmen in the ARD television studio, he said the result was a victory over the "bias of the public media."







Israel played time factor,  
says growers' union head

## Gazans suffer massive losses from first fruit sale to EC

GAZA (R) — The first direct citrus export from the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip to the European Community (EC), hailed as a political breakthrough for Palestinian agriculture, has ended in losses and recriminations.

Palestinian growers say they have not received a penny for the 4,000 tonnes of grapefruit they shipped to the Netherlands in December and may be sued by the Dutch importers to recover unexpected costs.

Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek gave the fruit a highly political welcome on the quayside in Rotterdam, sipping champagne amid the packing cases.

The Dutch importer said the Gazans were naive and disorganised, but the Gazans say they were duped.

"We did not get anything from the first shipment. We were even

asked to pay more. The extent of the loss will be \$380,000", said Hashem Ata Shawa, chairman of the Gaza Citrus Growers Union.

Shawa said bad timing — the consignment arrived too late for the lucrative Christmas season — and heavy-handed Israeli "security" inspections contributed to the fiasco.

He said the Gazans were withholding the next scheduled shipment, 13,000 tonnes of Valencia oranges. "We are not willing to export any more at a loss," he said.

Citrus fruit is the main product of the teeming Gaza Strip, home to 650,000 Palestinians, mostly

impooverished refugees. The Gaza producers appealed to the EC to rescue them, but EC representative Gwyn Morgan said the Executive EC Commission only established the legal and political framework for the exports.

"We cannot enter into the details of commercial deals," he said, adding: "Gaza producers have assured me that they are as keen as the Community to see the flow of exports continue."

Mario Overkleeft, the Dutch executive who handled the deal, said it was too early to tell whether the Gaza producers would lose money on the first shipment.

He said 60,000 out of 75,000 boxes of grapefruit had been sold so far, some in Britain, Denmark and Finland, but prices were low because the produce went on the

market after Christmas.

"They will get some money, but before they do the importers must cover their expenses, which are considerable," he said, citing costs for shipping, packing materials, advertising, cold storage and road haulage in Europe.

"We're selling here in a free market and they can't get more than exporters from Florida, Turkey or Jaffa," he said.

Overkleeft said the importers were being sued for dead freight by a shipping line whose vessel, sent to the Israeli port of Ashdod to pick up the next consignment, left empty. They would have to recover the money from the Gaza exporters, he said.

But Overkleeft insisted: "It wasn't a failure. The important thing was to open the market for these people. European distributors were pleased with quality. It's a start."

## Prospect of tax on share profits again haunts Milan bourse trading

MILAN (R) — Capital gains tax, phantom of the Milan bourse, is back haunting investors and depressing share values, financial analysts said Monday.

"It's like a ghost that comes out every three or four months," said Francesco Perilli, head of the foreign investor department for Milan investment bank Euromobiliare SPA.

When a tax on share trading profits was first proposed nearly three years ago there was a massive sell-off and the bourse plunged.

Last week prospects of its introduction surfaced again, cutting into a market already worried by Italy's rising debt.

Trade union leaders, who agreed to call off a planned

general strike after winning tax concessions, said last week the government would consider proposing a capital gains tax in May or June.

Share dividends and government securities are already taxed. Government ministers, while saying they want Italy to be in line with European Community plans for unified taxation on investment income, have been vague about their plans.

"The capital gains tax issue will overshadow the market until we see some definite proposals," Roberto Morelli, Italian equities analyst at London investment bank Country Natwest said.

"I hope it comes sooner rather than later," he added. "Once we know the full package, I don't think it will have a traumatic effect. I don't think investors will flee the market."

Euromobiliare's Perilli said: "If the tax is fair and clear like in other major countries, then I don't think it will be a big problem."

France applies two capital gains tax rates of 16 and 42 per

cent, while in Britain share trading profits above a specified limit are assessed at the basic income tax rate of 25 per cent.

The United States taxes capital gains at a rate of 28 per cent. Brokers and analysts said the tax issue weighed heavily on the market last week, when the Milan bourse index (MIB) slid nearly two per cent and average daily volume fell to around 190 billion lire (\$140 million) from 270 billion lire (\$200 million) the previous week.

The MIB dropped 0.39 per cent Monday to end at 1,010.

But the tax issue was not alone in hurting the market.

Analysts said Italy's spiralling public debt and the government's apparent inability to sharply reduce the shortfall were also dampening investor interest.

A delegation from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), following a routine visit last month, sounded a strong warning that despite the economy's robust health, firm fiscal action needed to be taken to curb the deficit and cool domestic demand.

## Ortega announces severe austerity

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — President Daniel Ortega has announced plans to cut the budget by nearly half, lay off 35,000 troops and public employees and end subsidies for basic goods in an effort to end the country's economic woes.

He said in announcing the austerity plan Monday that city dwellers would be hardest hit and suggested many move back to rural areas.

Speaking to the national assembly, Ortega called for the

cooperation of private business and told landowners that the leftist Sandinista government would no longer confiscate private property.

In ending the two-hour, 40-minute address, he said Nicaragua's 3.5 million people needed to make sacrifices to revive the economy and reduce inflation, which reached 20,000 per cent.

"I appeal to the sensibility and honesty of all Nicaraguans so this proposal doesn't turn into a political confrontation," Ortega said.

## World prices of raw materials hit advanced levels last year

WASHINGTON (AP) — Prices for raw materials all over the world reached their highest level for the 1980s last year, according to figures collected by the World Bank.

The drought in the United States pushed the average price of wheat to \$168.90 a tonne in December, compared with an average of \$112.10 in 1987.

Big demand by the industrial countries of East Asia helped raise the price of copper to a record \$3,498.90 a ton.

The average rise for a long list of commodities was 10.2 per cent for the year. That brought the overall level to just a little — 2.8 per cent — above the average for the years 1979 to 1981.

Problems of Third World countries have been aggravated in recent years by low prices they have been getting for the products of fields and mines, their chief source of foreign income. For some, things now are improving.

"It's sort of uneven," said Penelope Hartland-Thunberg, trade expert at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, in an interview. The centre is an independent study group.

Aluminum, nickel, rice, sugar, bananas, fats and oils were all up for the year. Timber, cotton and oranges were down.

"The price of copper is one reason why Chile's economy is doing so well," she went on.

"It also helps Zambia and Zaire. On the other hand, the price of oil is down almost to what it was in the early 1970s, before the big price rise, in terms of the goods that the oil-producing countries have to buy," she noted.

In addition to the Arab countries of the Middle East, oil is a major export for Nigeria, Mexico, Venezuela, Ecuador, Indonesia and others. Chile benefits doubly: From the rise in the copper price and the drop in the oil price, because oil is a big import.

Hartland-Thunberg said that commodity prices go in short-term cycles, now up and now down. But the long term trend is declining as new inventions come into use and less raw material is used for each dollar of goods produced.

The average prices collected by the World Bank do not include fuels. It reported oil prices on the rise from \$10.50 a barrel in October, with one grade as high as \$19 mid-January.

It noted that the increase came despite the highest production in seven years by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) — 22.7 million bar-

rels a day.

"The price rise reflects growing market confidence in the stability of OPEC's November agreement to establish a production ceiling of 18.5 million barrels a day," the World Bank report explained. Coal prices, which tend to follow oil prices, rose to \$40.50 a ton in December from 1987's average of \$36.20 in the United States. In Australia, the rise was to \$38 from \$27.50.

Ron Duncan, chief of the World Bank's commodities division, pointed out that there is sometimes a wide spread even within individual commodities.

High quality Arabica coffees from the highlands of Brazil, Colombia and Jamaica are being bought more and more in Western Europe, he said. The report

credited the reintroduction of export quotas under the International Coffee Agreement as helping raise the price of Arabicas by 20 per cent in 1988.

That meant a shift away from the lower grade Robusta coffees grown nearer the sea in West Africa and Indonesia. Their prices were down by eight per cent.

Duncan also emphasised the uneven effects of price movements.

"The newly industrialised countries in Asia are importing feed for pigs and poultry," he said. "That pushes up the price of grain up for the low income countries of Africa, which have to buy more because they're producing less themselves and there's less foreign aid available."

## V.W., Fiat fight over output data

WOLFSBURG, West Germany (R) — West Germany's Volkswagen (V.W.) said Monday it just beat Fiat of Italy to stay the biggest in the European car market in 1988.

A Volkswagen spokesman told Reuters that V.W. registered 1,941,000 cars to take 14.9 per cent of the market in 1988.

Fiat last week released provisional figures showing it had registered 1,930,000 cars and saying it took 14.9 per cent of the market.

V.W. has held the top spot for four years but Fiat in 1988 boosted its market share from 14.3 per cent the year before, while V.W. slipped from 15.0 per cent claimed in 1987. V.W. said its Golf remained Europe's top seller in 1988.

V.W.'s subsidiaries notched up the most impressive increases in the year with the Spanish Seat boosting European registrations by 13.1 per cent to 276,000 cars.

European registrations of more up-market cars built by the Audi A.G. subsidiary rose six per cent to 373,000. But registrations of V.W.'s own models in Europe rose only 2.4 per cent to 1,292,000 million cars.

At Fiat headquarters in Turin, the Italian car giant disputed the figures, saying the West German firm's narrow lead was due to V.W.'s inclusion of the sale of 31,000 minibuses.

A Fiat spokesman said his company did not feel minibuses should be counted as car sales.

V.W. spokesman Peter Schlelein acknowledged that the minibuses were included, but said this was because European car registration authorities also included them in their data.

"When we talk about cars, we talk about cars. Vehicles over five seats are not cars," said the Fiat spokesman in Turin. "We have sold 1,930,000 cars and they have sold 1,910,000... this is the real figure as far as we are concerned."

He said that the V.W. total also included 18,000 Porsche cars, although this was not clear in the V.W. communiqué. He disputed whether these should be counted in the total.

V.W. subsidiary Audi A.G. makes some Porsches under licence, although these production figures are normally identified separately within total V.W. output figures.

## Stock probe confirms French insider trading

PARIS (R) — Investigators probing suspicions that friends of France's Socialist government used secret information to profit from a takeover deal said Tuesday they had found evidence of insider share trading and would seek prosecutions.

They are looking at share-buying last November ahead of the takeover of U.S.-based packaging firm Triangle Industries Inc. by French state-owned aluminium company Pechiney. No names were mentioned in their initial statement.

The inquiry by France's Securities Commission (COB), in tandem with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the London Stock Exchange, found a "series of precise indications pointing to the same conclusion," the statement said.

The discoveries justified "referral to judicial authorities on charges of insider trading," it added.

The full COB report, with potentially serious implications for the government of president Francois Mitterrand, was due to be released later in the day. It was expected to identify the French investors involved.

Mitterrand has vowed there would be no cover-up and said it

was necessary to shed full light on the case in order to safeguard the reputation of Paris as a financial market.

A top aide to Finance Minister Pierre Bérégovoy resigned Jan. 20 to fight media reports that he had leaked details of the takeover plan, and the French press has alleged that a close friend of Mitterrand was also involved.

The panel focused its probe on suspect trading in France between Nov. 14 and 18, the closing stage of Pechiney's \$1.26 billion bid for Triangle and its cunning interests.

Radio reports said about 10 French citizens were suspected of making a quick killing on inside knowledge of the deal.

"We have not found out everything," COB President Jean Farge told reporters waiting outside his office.

Insiders with advance knowledge of the takeover bid could have made profits of up to \$45 a share on some 220,000 shares traded as the value of Triangle stock quintupled and volume grew tenfold.

Under French law, toughened up a year ago, offenders face up to two years in prison or fines of up to five million francs (\$800,000) upon conviction.

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Secondary Education and the International Baccalaureate, an internationally recognised university matriculation examination).

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Further details and registration forms are available from the school reception (telephone 845572 or 847191/2).

## Hawke proposes link in Asia-Pacific region

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke said Tuesday the vast resources of the Asia-Pacific region cannot be fully exploited unless nations work together to form a new organisation for economic cooperation.

"The Asia-Pacific region is at a pivotal point in history. And the region is located at a pivotal point in the global economy," Hawke said. "We should try to investigate whether through coordinated policy making we might better capitalise on the economics of the region."

He told a news conference that creating a new, cooperative organisation among nations in the region would help them reach their economic potential.

Hawke said his support for a regional group should not be interpreted "as suggesting by code words the creation of a Pacific trading bloc."

But if a trading bloc becomes necessary in the future, he said the "building blocks" would be in place.

Hawke was in Seoul as part of a 15-day tour that also includes

stops in Thailand, Pakistan and India.

"The Asia-Pacific region generates more than one-third of the world's trade, and is likely in the next decade to create more than half the world's economic output," the prime minister said at a business luncheon.

"Serious cracks are appearing in the international trading system which have major implications for the future health of both our region and the world economy," he said.

He cited as examples the pressure from trade imbalances between Asian nations and the United States, a trend toward regionalism and the formation of regional trading blocs in Europe and elsewhere.

"I believe the time has come for us substantially to increase our efforts toward building regional cooperation," he said.

Hawke told the news conference he had talked with South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo about holding a ministerial-level forum on economic cooperation later this year. He said Row was enthusiastic about the idea.

## Top banker rules out high Soviet borrowing

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union will maintain a cautious approach to foreign borrowing despite the need to re-equip industry and calls from some economists to boost imports of consumer goods, a leading Soviet banker says.

"There is no problem for us getting money at the moment, the problem is to choose the right

equipment to buy with it and to get the best conditions," said Eduard Gostev, deputy chairman of the Bank for Foreign Economic Affairs (Vnesheconombank).

"We had this experience before when we borrowed a lot of money and did not use it properly," he told Reuters in an interview. "Some of that equipment is still lying in the snow and has not been installed."

Recent figures showed that by last year around 2.66 billion rubles (\$4.4 billion) of goods bought for precious foreign currency had been wasted, Gostev said.

He said the bank, which has a monopoly on Soviet foreign borrowing, would keep a firm rein. "It may sound bureaucratic but as the institution responsible for borrowing we will try to squeeze all those who go beyond their real needs."

At the same time, the bank would go on experimenting with various financial instruments — a policy which last year saw the first Soviet issue of foreign bonds since the 1917 revolution.

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### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Strong performance by quality shares kept the market buoyant despite fall in gold bullion and adverse economic figures. The All Ordinaries Index closed 8.4 up at 1,551.3.

TOKYO — Prices closed mixed on last minute buying after thin trade on worries over the direction of currency levels. The Nikkei Index firmed 13.80 to 31,581.30.

HONG KONG — Heavy profit-taking barely dented Hong Kong's bull market run and failed to stop the Hang Seng Index galloping to its third consecutive post-crash high. The index rose 36.41 to 3,072.86.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed after renewed buying interest and short-covering helped them recoup most of some early losses. The Straits Times Industrial Index closed 1.49 lower at 1,133.32.

BOMBAY — Prices closed mixed on speculative buying in the afternoon after a subdued opening. Sentiment was dampened by a report that this year's government budget deficit would rise.

FRANKFURT — German shares fell sharply across the board, led down by rumours that blue chip Deutsche Bank was planning a capital increase. The 30-share DAX Index ended 15.64 lower at 1,312.73.

ZURICH — Shares closed easier on very low volume and brokers said the retreat was due to consolidation after last week's gains. The All-Share Swiss Index lost 6.9 to 964.0.

PARIS — Prices were lower in thin, cautious trading ahead of Wednesday's strike by bourse employees. The bourse indicator declined by 0.64 per cent.

LONDON — Equities fell in late trade in line with Wall Street's decline. One trader said investors were seizing an excuse to take profits. At 1551 GMT, the FT 100 index was up seven at 2,069.4.

NEW YORK — Stocks were lower, weakened by profit-taking and Federal Reserve chief Greenspan's reiteration that it was leaning towards tight money policy. The Dow was down 13 at 2,311.







## Army joins Yugoslav tug-of-war

**BELGRADE (AP)** — Another senior military officer told Communist Party leader Tuesday that Yugoslavia's economic and political crisis threatened to break apart the nation and he suggested the army might intervene.

Vice Admiral Stane Brovet told the session of the policy-making Central Committee that in some parts of Yugoslavia "the situation is escaping control... (and the country's) territorial integrity and constitutional order are being jeopardised."

Waves of demonstrations in past months have demanded sweeping changes in party leadership.

"Forces that wish the destruction of Yugoslavia through non-institutional (illegal) methods are appearing on the scene," Brovet said.

"Yugoslavia can survive only as a true federation... and the forces which are working toward

the breakup of such a Yugoslavia should be prevented primarily by political but also by all other means," he said, without elaborating.

His comments followed a similar warning Monday.

"What some describe as the battle for Yugoslavia will not be waged without the Yugoslav army," Adm. Petar Simic, a member of the ruling politburo and the military's chief political officer, had declared.

Simic called for party unity at the plenary session of the Central Committee.

Liberal and hardline committee members have been clashing over how to cope with 250-per

cent inflation, a sharp drop in living standards and an alarming increase in labour and ethnic unrest.

The army has remained on the sidelines in the dispute, which pits advocates of greater democracy against supporters of a more centralised communist system.

But senior officers are now showing signs of increasing unease, and Simic indicated the military — with an estimated combined strength of about 200,000 — might take a more active role "in putting a stop to confrontations between the republics."

"The crisis in Yugoslavia is rapidly approaching its culmination," Simic said, adding that the party is "losing battle after battle" as the "political system is breaking apart."

The army is "stable and prepared to fulfill its role and pur-

pose," he said.

The Central Committee session was convened to discuss calls for the resignation of the Communist Party leader, Stipe Suvar, a liberal-minded Croat who favours greater decentralisation of the economy.

It was expected to be a showdown between liberals and the hardline coalition led by Slobodan Milosevic, the ambitious party chief of Serbia, largest of Yugoslavia's six loosely federated republics.

Suvar told committee members Monday that Yugoslavia must choose between more democracy and "neo-Stalinism."

He also criticised the politics of centralised control favoured by Milosevic.

Milosevic Monday called for sweeping personnel changes in the country's leadership, which he blamed for the current crisis.

"It would be honest and intelli-



gent that those who have clashed with the people should allow themselves to be replaced by better and more capable men," he said.

Milosevic draws his support from Yugoslavia's poorer southern regions, where people fear that market-oriented economic reforms could lead to layoffs if they cause unprofitable enterprises to forfeit state subsidies.

Suvar is supported by Yugoslavia's most liberal and westernised republic, Slovenia, and his native Croatia, which favours more democracy.

## Mulroney overhauls cabinet

**OTTAWA (R)** — Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney announced a major reshuffling of his cabinet Monday, including new ministers for energy, defence and the treasury board.

Mulroney, who led his Conservative Party to its second consecutive majority government in November, also announced creation of four new cabinet committees, covering the environment, economic affairs, culture and human resources.

As was expected, Finance Minister Michael Wilson, External Affairs Minister Joe Clark, Deputy Prime Minister Don Mazankowski and Trade Minister John Crosbie remained in their posts.

Mulroney announced six newcomers to the cabinet as well as an extensive series of promotions and demotions of ministers who served in previous cabinets.

"These changes in ministerial duties and cabinet structures clear the decks for the government to prepare the programme for its second mandate that will be laid before parliament in the spring," Mulroney said in a statement.

Major changes include: — Robert de Cotret, former industry minister, returns as president of the treasury board, which



Brian Mulroney oversees all government spending.

— Jake Epp, the former health minister, returns as president of the treasury board, which oversees all government spending.

— Jake Epp, the former health minister, gets the energy portfolio while former Energy Minister Marcel Masse returns to his old job in communications.

— Bill McKnight, formerly Indian affairs, is named defence minister.

— Perrin Beatty, who as defence minister had devised a controversial plan to acquire a fleet of nuclear submarines, is made the new health minister.

— Former Consumer and Corporate Affairs Minister Harvie Andre will head a new industrial department, industry, science and technology.

## Belgium says Zaire must make first move

**BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)** — Belgium said Tuesday it wants a reconciliation with Zaire but said the former Belgian colony must first show it wants normal relations by agreeing to a diplomatic "cease-fire."

"We await a sign of a better climate," from Kinshasa, Prime Minister Wilfried Martens said of Belgo-Zairian relations that have hit an all-time low over criticism in the Belgian media and parliament of the authoritarian way Zaire President Mobutu Sese Seko runs his country.

Foreign Minister Leo Tindemans returned from Zaire Saturday saying he had paved the way for a top-level conference in March to review Belgo-Zairian relations.

But in an about-face, Martens said Monday while preparations for such a meeting continue, it can only occur if Mobutu refrains from upsetting bilateral relations.

Since Tindemans' visit, "the climate was worsened," he said.

He referred to Mobutu's order, announced on the weekend, to Zairean state companies to close out their accounts with affiliates of two Belgian banks in Kinshasa and shift their funds to three Zairian banks.

At the same time, the Zairean news agency said it will run a month-long series of articles, starting Feb. 8, detailing Belgian exploitation of Zaire from colonial days up to the present.

"The climate for holding a min-

isterial conference has not improved since Tindemans' visit, Martens told reporters.

The visit, he added, "evidently was meant to improve relations. We had counted on... a cease-fire."

He said he wants Zaire as yet to show it wants better relations at a meeting here Thursday between the directors of the Belgian and Zairean airline companies.

These relations began to deteriorate in November when Martens, on a visit to Zaire, offered to forgive a debt of \$27 million and reschedule another \$460 million to help ease Zaire's foreign debt which totals \$7 billion.

This renewed criticism in the Belgian media and parliament of the way Mobutu runs his nation of 34 million, contrasting it with Mobutu's own lavish lifestyle.

Zaire became independent of Belgium in 1960. Mobutu seized power in 1965, installing a one-party pro-Western regime that has long been accused of human rights abuses and financial mismanagement.

Since November Mobutu has halted all debt payments to Belgium, suspended two cooperation agreements, ordered the 13,000 or so Zaireans living here to sell off any Belgian assets, and halved the four weekly flights of Sabena between Brussels and Kinshasa.

He has also told Zairean state companies to move their Brussels offices to other European cities.

## Pakistan seeks to settle row with U.S. over nuclear plans

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Key members of Pakistan's government are proposing a swap that would send U.S.-made nuclear reactors to their country in exchange for safeguards to assure that their nuclear programme is used only for peaceful purposes, says a senior member of Congress.

Representative Stephen Solarz, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Asia Subcommittee, said such an agreement could head off a showdown between the two countries later this year on a cutoff of U.S. aid to Pakistan over its failure to comply with nuclear non-proliferation requirements.

Assurances of previous Pakistani governments that the country was not developing an atomic bomb "were not worth the paper on which they were printed," but a new approach is being taken

under Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Solarz said.

It would represent the opening of a new era in relations between the two countries, which have been friendly but tainted by U.S. mistrust over Pakistan's nuclear intentions.

Solarz said such an agreement, as well, could enhance a budding reconciliation between Pakistan and India, where relations have been tense for decades, prompting Pakistan's efforts to build nuclear weapons.

He said he learned during a just-completed tour of the Asian subcontinent that key Pakistani leaders would be prepared to submit the nuclear programme to international safeguards in exchange for the right to purchase American atomic power reactors.

"If the United States is willing to sell nuclear reactors for peaceful nuclear energy, Pakistan

would agree to establish full-scope safeguards on all their nuclear facilities, including existing ones," Solarz said at a Monday news conference. He also praised Bhutto for showing personal courage and a commitment to democracy.

Meanwhile Monday, the CBS television network reported that U.S.-made nuclear materials found their way to Pakistan through a complicated series of transactions including two West German companies.

"Heavy water" — water made from a heavy hydrogen isotope — from a U.S. government nuclear plant was sold during the 1960s to a West German firm; about 20 years later, the water was sent from West Germany to France, where it was used in the production of nuclear weapons. It was extracted from it, the network said.

### WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Greenpeace — Japanese collision

**SYDNEY (AP)** — The Greenpeace environmental protest group's ship, *Gondwana*, had a minor collision Tuesday with a Japanese whaling vessel off Antarctica, but there was little damage and no one was injured. The incident was the most serious since the environmental group began its campaign a week ago to harass the Japanese into stopping their whale hunt. "All hell has broken loose," said Greenpeace spokesman Peter Wilkinson, interviewed by radio telephone from the *Gondwana*. "There was a lot of shouting and klaxon honking. The Japanese catcher boat kept coming closer and closer while the skipper of the factory ship gesticulated, telling us to get out of the way." Wilkinson told the AP that 1,435-tonne *Gondwana* was in a "perfectly legitimate position" when it bumped into the Japanese ship.

#### Man freed after 30 years

**TOKYO (AP)** — A man who spent 30 years on death row was freed Tuesday after he was found innocent in a new trial of the kidnapping and murder of a six-year-old girl. It was the fourth case in six years in which a condemned inmate was acquitted of murder charges in a retrial. In all four cases, confessions made during interrogation but later repudiated were rejected by the retrial judges as lacking credibility. Freed Tuesday was Masao Akabori, 59, who had been sentenced to hang by a district court in 1958. The sentence was upheld by the supreme court in 1960, but a retrial began in October 1987 in the Shizuoka District Court after four appeals by Akabori. Akabori was arrested two months after six-year-old Hisako Sano was kidnapped and strangled March 10, 1954, near her home in Shimada, about 200 kilometres west of Tokyo. Under police questioning, he confessed to the crime, but withdrew the confession and pleaded innocent in court. The retrial verdict by a three-judge panel said Akabori's confession lacked full credibility, and there was no other credible evidence found that would link him to the crime. "I am glad I won the appeal because I am innocent. And I am so thankful to my lawyers and all the people who have supported me and encouraged me through the past 35 years," Akabori said in a statement. Akabori's lawyers said he is entitled to 120 million yen (\$930,200) in government compensation for spending 12,660 days behind bars.

#### Phobos II sends data

**MOSCOW (R)** — The Soviet spacecraft Phobos II, which entered orbit around Mars Sunday, has begun sending information back to Earth, including surprising data on solar flares, Izvestia said Monday. The craft, expected to orbit the planet for the next 60 days, had sent back "data on powerful gamma flashes which had never been expected by anyone in astrophysics," the government newspaper said. This was in addition to other data on the sun and on shockwaves in the Earth's atmosphere. It will get as close as 850 kilometres to Mars before moving in April towards Phobos, one of the planet's moons. A special module is to land on the moon's surface.

#### Spanish prince dies

**BEAVER CREEK, COLORADO (AP)** — Stunned officials were investigating the death of Prince Alfonso de Borbon of Spain when he skied into a cable stretched across the finish line of the men's downhill course at the world Alpine ski championships. Alfonso de Borbon, 52, a cousin of King Juan Carlos and member of the international governing body of ski racing, had been free-riding with companions when he ran into the cable which was being raised to support a banner at the finish line of Beaver Creek resort. Although no official cause of death has been determined, Jeff Beavers of the Eagle County Sheriff's Department said the 52-year-old prince suffered severe neck cuts.

#### No royals to Hirohito funeral

**THE HAGUE (R)** — The Netherlands is sending Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek — but no members of the royal family — to the funeral of Japanese Emperor Hirohito, a government spokesman said Tuesday. The government had postponed the decision for weeks amid calls by Dutch World War II veterans and sympathisers to boycott the funeral out of respect for the thousands of Dutchmen who died in Japanese prison camps. The announcement followed on the heels of the controversial release last Friday of two German Nazi war criminals imprisoned here for more than 40 years. The spokesman said Prime Minister Ruud Lubbers had written to parliament informing it of the decision and pointing out that members of the royal family and the Dutch government had met the emperor and his family in the past.

## After losing south, Gandhi faces revolt

**NEW DELHI (R)** — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, having lost southern India to the opposition, now faces a revolt within his Congress (I) Party in its last and electorally crucial bastion in the north.

Gandhi's opponents say the bitter infighting that erupted in Congress governments in the northern states of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar last week were sparked by the humiliating Congress loss in Tamil Nadu state elections earlier this month.

They are signs of the party's irredeemable loss of faith in Gandhi as a vote-catcher in the general elections, said A.P. Venkateswaran of the Centre for Policy Research.

General elections are scheduled to be called by the end of the year, but Gandhi was widely expected to bring them forward if the Tamil Nadu verdict had been different.

"Now a humiliating loss there has put the Congress out of power in all four southern states and weakened his hold on the party," said Venkateswaran.

The troubles in the north erupted immediately after the Tamil Nadu polls Jan. 21, with dissident Congress members of the Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

State assemblies demanding that the party leadership agree to their choice of chief ministers.

Gandhi, failing in the past week to resolve the crisis, was due to discuss the issue at a meeting of his party's top body, the Congress working committee, Tuesday evening.

But hours before the meeting, Bihar's dissidents defied Gandhi's orders and decided to boycott the budget session of the assembly until the Congress leadership agreed to replace Chief Minister Bhagwat Jha Azad with their candidate.

In Madhya Pradesh, Gandhi swiftly replaced chief minister Arjun Singh after a court ordered an inquiry into a lottery that members of his family were running in the state. But the move split Congress assemblies into powerful factions there.

The bitter infighting has been temporarily halted by the appointment of Motilal Vora to the state's top political post.

The two states are located in the important Hindi-speaking belt of northern India and account for 94 of the 546 seats in the national parliament's lower house, where Gandhi must win a majority in general elections to keep power.

## Britain slashes Gibraltar garrison

**LONDON (R)** — Britain has announced a major cut in its Gibraltar garrison but told the Mediterranean colony's people they can stay British as long as they want and need not fear neighbouring Spain.

Defence Secretary George Younger Monday said Britain decided to withdraw an infantry battalion from the strategic Rock, long claimed by Spain, because resources were stretched and the troops could be put to better use elsewhere.

"As long as the people of Gibraltar wish it, they will remain under the British flag," he said.

Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe, in Gibraltar for talks with the colony's chief minister, Joe Bossano, said: "People who have watched Gibraltar for a long time... realise that there is no longer a threat from Spain."

News of the troop cuts, under which about 650 soldiers will be pulled out in two years time, prompted initial speculation that Britain was ready to disengage from Gibraltar, over which Spain has repeatedly claimed sovereignty.

Bossano said he was happy with his meeting with Howe and he felt local concern at initial media reports, which spoke of a

reduction of 1,000 men, had been over-dramatised.

But at a reception Monday evening, Bossano presented the British foreign minister with silver replicas of the keys of Gibraltar and said he hoped Howe "would not give any of these away to anyone he might be meeting next week."

Howe is due to have talks in London next Monday with Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez Ordóñez at which Madrid is expected once more to raise the sovereignty issue.

Spain ceded the Rock, positioned strategically at the mouth of the Mediterranean, to Britain in 1713 under the Treaty of Utrecht.

In London, government sources said the cut would reduce the British garrison to about 1,200 from the present 1,800. Naval and royal air force personnel, as well as some army units, would not be affected.

Nor will the Rock's famous colony of Barbary apes, whose departure, legend has it, would signal the end of a British presence in Gibraltar.

Government sources said they lived on part of the Rock under control of the Royal Air Force.

## NATO general refutes Warsaw Pact figures

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) officials Monday denied contentions of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact nations that the Western alliance maintains roughly the same number of conventional forces in its European arsenal.

"It is clear that the idea of a rough parity of forces in Europe does not correspond to the factual situation," said H. Sloan, a spokesman for NATO.

U.S. General John Galvin, NATO's top military commander in Europe, said, "I definitely do not agree that a rough parity of conventional forces already exists in Europe."

The NATO remarks followed release Monday of a detailed breakdown by the Warsaw Pact nations comparing their conventional forces with those of the Western allies. NATO last November released its own comparison.

The Western alliance contends the Soviets and their allies have built up a huge superiority in conventional, or non-nuclear, forces in Europe.

The 16 NATO nations and the

seven of the Warsaw Pact are to begin negotiations in March in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe. The alliance wants the East Bloc nations to make much greater reductions in their forces to bring the two sides to rough equality.

The Warsaw Pact figures give NATO the edge in ground troops, air forces, navy personnel, strike aircraft, helicopters and large surface ships.

The East Bloc, according to those figures, has the upper hand in tanks, tactical missile launchers, interceptor warplanes, artillery and infantry vehicles and armoured personnel carriers.

In its November report on troops in Europe, NATO said the Warsaw Pact had more troops, main battle tanks, armoured infantry fighting vehicles, artillery, anti-tank weapons, air defence systems, helicopters, combat aircraft and armoured vehicle-launched bridges.

The report did not cover naval forces. "Naval forces are capable of global deployment, and this makes it artificial to identify specific numbers of ships associated with any one region," it said.

## COLUMN

### Locust-eating cats suffer for snack

**RIYADH (R)** — Four cats which stole a dinner of fried locusts from a Saudi Arabian kitchen died from insecticide poisoning, a Saudi newspaper said Sunday. The Jeddah-based Al-Bilad newspaper said the cats collapsed immediately after gulping down the insects, regarded as a delicacy by many Saudis. The government has warned the public not to eat locusts after heavy spraying of swarms which invaded Saudi Arabia late last year.

### Japanese bid for van Gogh's house

**AMSTERDAM (R)** — Japanese art lovers plan to buy the house where Vincent van Gogh was born and transform the building, now an estate agent's office, into a museum dedicated to the Dutch painter, a Dutch financial adviser said Tuesday. "We are negotiating with two different groups of Japanese investors who want to buy the house," said Willem de Wilde, spokesman for the Utrecht-based firm of advisers handling the sale of the house in the small western village of Zundert where van Gogh was born in 1853. The painter, whose works have fetched record prices at recent auctions, spent his childhood in the house but is not believed to have worked there. De Wilde said one of the Japanese groups was bidding for the property with Belgian businessman Dominique Janssens, who has already bought a house in the southern French village of Auvers-sur-Oise where van Gogh committed suicide in 1890. A Japanese insurance company bought Van Gogh's "sunflowers" painting in 1987 for 5.3 billion yen (\$36.8 million).

### Drivers attend charm school

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — In a bid to control hot Mediterranean tempers and learn a smattering of English to help tourists get around, Athens' bus drivers are going to charm school. The 620-million drachma (\$4.3 million) programme is aimed at improving the image of public transportation, which faces stiff competition from taxi rides, whose cost is among the cheapest in the world. Classes such as "driver and communication with the public" and "English for drivers" are part of the 15-day courses for the Urban Transportation Company's (EAS) staff. "The classes will help the driver control his Mediterranean temperament... but passengers must also understand that it's not the driver's fault when the bus is late," said Andreas Kolas, a spokesman for the union of bus drivers. Quarrels often break out between bus drivers and passengers irked by waiting for buses or when riders insist on getting off where there is no bus stop.

### Gunther receives Columbia award

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Composer Gunther Schuller is the third recipient of Columbia University's William Schuman Award, a \$50,000 prize for lifetime achievement in American musical composition. Schuller, 63, has composed more than 150 pieces of music and gained fame for mixing 12-tone classical music with jazz elements in the 1950s and calling it "Third Stream." The William Schuman Award, named in honour of the composer, was established in 1981 through a gift from the Bydale Foundation.

### Boxer mistaken for gunman sues

**LONDON (R)** — British boxing champion Nigel Benn has taken legal action after being accused 16 times because police searching for a gunman issued his picture in error and a newspaper printed it, his manager said Wednesday. Lawyers for the British Commonwealth middleweight champion began libel proceedings against police and the Evening Standard newspaper, which published a touched-up picture of him saying it was an impression of a wanted gunman. Police apologised for the mistake, saying Benn, known as the "dark destroyer" because of his string of knockout victories, was in no way associated with an attack on a cyclist in London. Benn's manager Ambrose Mendy said it was quite clear the picture showed the boxer and was not an artist's impression. "You could even recognise the gold chain around his neck," he said. "On idiot who saw the picture tried to arrest Nigel by jumping on top of him, grabbing hold of him and screaming 'He's a wanted man.' Nigel's a martial arts expert and he didn't have hold of him long, but you can imagine the embarrassment."

## Rio carnival — 'moment of freedom for the Brazilian soul'

By Paul Mylrea  
Reuters

**RIO DE JANEIRO** — For five hot summer days from Sunday, rich and poor in Rio will mingle in a frenzy of music, dance and eroticism to the samba beat of carnival.

"It's the biggest moment of freedom for the Brazilian soul. It's completely democratic," Paulo Cesar Cardoso, one of the Rio samba school organisers, or Carnavalescos, told Reuters.

"It's something that just doesn't happen throughout the rest of the year. The unemployed favela (shanty-town) dweller mixes with people from the social elite... people just have no thought of colour or class," Cardoso, 46, said.

With the help of a few professionals and tens of thousands of amateurs like Cardoso — a lawyer working on samba school Vila Isabel's parade in his holidays — rich and poor combine to give a show which surpasses even Hollywood's wildest dreams.

What began last century as a fusion of half-remembered African rhythms brought to the country by slaves and imported European carnivals from cities like Venice, has become a media spectacular. This is particularly so in Rio, Brazil's carnival capital.

"(Carnival) is now a universal show, it's showbiz," Hiram Araujo, director of Rio's permanent carnival museum, said.

"It hasn't got its equal any-

where in the world," Araujo told Reuters in his office at the end of Rio's permanent carnival parade ground, the Sambodromo.

The show draws thousands of foreign and Brazilian tourists and over 2,000 journalists will cover the Rio battle between samba schools for the coveted carnival title.

The rivalry between Rio schools, most based in favelas, spurs Carnavalescos to ever greater heights of imagination in designing the giant decorated floats that accompany each group's 4,000 or so spectacularly costumed dancers.

Despite a crisis-ridden economy, carnival spending is buoyant.

Carnavalescos estimate that a top school — as in football,

they are grouped into leagues with relegation and promotion — spends between \$120,000 and \$200,000 on the parade.

Some of the money comes from television rights and some from ticket sales for rehearsals and shows. A large share comes from backers, often bosses of Brazil's illegal numbers game.

But most of the costumes are still paid for by the school's members who take part in the parade, many of whom earn less than the minimum wage of \$54 a month.

"Some sell their television, their fridge... to take part in the parade. People save up, ignore Christmas and birthdays, just to be there," said Valmir Mariano da Silva, a musical director of one of Rio's

most traditional schools, Mangueira.

This obsession with carnival and the five days of frenzy it unleashes has its critics. Traditionalists bemoan the change from spontaneous street celebrations to today's carnival industry, most evident in Rio.

They say high seat prices — around \$40 for a seat on the parade avenue and several thousands of dollars for private, air-conditioned boxes — mean only the rich and foreign tourists can watch the carnival parade live.

True samba lovers, favela dwellers and ordinary Brazilians must watch it on television, if they have one, they say. Some have deeper moral objections.

"How can one explain the

poverty which exists in screaming contrast with the expense, including by the people who save all year round to finance a few hours of doubtful happiness," Rio Archbishop Dom Eugenio de Araujo Sales said last year.

Thousands of Cariocans, as Rio inhabitants are called, also flee to mountain villages or other retreats to avoid the noise.

But for carnival participants, all these have missed the point. "Rio is a cosmopolitan city, you can't keep this local... you can't say this is authentic and this isn't," Araujo said.

"You forget your problems. For a night, it's all joy," Mangueira director Rivaldo de Sant'Anna told Reuters.

One spectator at last year's